THE LAST DAY OF LINCOLN
The journey to Ford’s Theatre: the legendary leader’s final acts

REVOLUTION!
Epic guide to liberty and rebellion
Major battles and conflicts
10 iconic revolutionaries
2000 years of uprisings

50 EVENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD
Ancient Greece to 9/11 - history’s gamechangers revealed

“The president seized his throat”
An eyewitness account of the tragic day at Dealey Plaza

Grigori Rasputin
Behind the myth of the mad monk

www.historyanswers.co.uk
This aircraft was flown by Wing Commander Guy Gibson, Commanding Officer No. 617 Squadron. Gibson led three Lancastrians to attack and breach the Eder Dam.

Trying to make the army more mobile during the Great War the Royal Horse Artillery in this set have two field guns, a full team of horses, gun limber and full crew.

Since the Cromwell and Tiger II tanks made their combat debut in the Normandy campaign, however both were very different types of tank, the Cromwell being a manoeuvrable and fast medium cruiser tank, the Tiger II being a hugely complex heavy tank, weighing in at 68 tonnes.

RMS Titanic was an Olympic-class passenger liner owner by the White Star Line and built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland. On the night of 14th April 1912, during her maiden voyage, Titanic hit an iceberg and sank two hours and forty minutes later, early on 15 April 1912, with the loss of 1,517 lives. At the time of her launching in 1912, she was the largest passenger steamship in the world.
Welcome to issue one

History is rich, diverse and exciting. And we're long overdue a history magazine to reflect this. That's why we created All About History, a unique new publication that's every bit as interesting and engaging as the real stories and themes it presents. This is no place for dry and dreary academic articles; this is the magazine to transport you back to the major events and eras of the past through a combination of colourful, engrossing articles written by experts and coupled with breathtaking photography, illustration, art and infographics.

History belongs to everyone and foremost in our plan for this magazine is that it presents even complex topics in a way that is accessible and entertaining to all. Every issue will open with a guide to an epic theme from history - and 'Revolution' seemed perfect for this trailblazing first issue. Other subjects we plan to cover include exploration, invention, war, medicine and much more. Our articles take a unique and innovative approach to exploring history. Features include 'What if...?' in which an expert speculates on how the landscape of today might have looked had the outcome of a key historic event been different. We also give an in-depth biographical take on a famous character from the past in 'Heroes & Villains'. Our 'Eyewitness' feature examines a significant event from the perspective of an actual observer while other articles include the 'Bluffer's Guide' that delivers bite-sized facts about civilisations eras, and cultures to help you retain what you read.

We've tried to ensure that innovation is as much a driving force behind our approach to this magazine as it has been across history itself. So if you have a passion for times past, read, absorb, enjoy and immerse yourself in the magazine that is, literally, All About History.

Dave Harfield
Editor in Chief

Issue one highlights

What if: The slave states had won?
Prof Aaron Sheehan-Dean's expert take on what could have happened if the confederacy had won America's Civil War

Bluffer's Guide: Ancient Maya
The wealth of fascinating facts about how the Mayans lived reveals just how remarkably advanced this ancient civilization was

Heroes & Villains: Grigori Rasputin
Mystic with miraculous healing powers or oversized charlatan intent on seducing a Russian queen? A biographical look at the mad monk

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THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

The Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles was an appropriate venue for signing the peace treaty that would end "the war to end all wars", holding, as it could, many hundreds of dignitaries. Few of those featured in this photograph could have realised that the treaty would lead to far greater destruction just two decades later.

28 June 1919
DEFINING MOMENT

SPIRE TOPS THE ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER

The final section of the spire was lowered to the top of One World Trade Center to cheers from construction workers and onlookers, who are captured in this iconic shot. Soaring to a symbolic 1,776 feet (541 metres), One World Trade Center is a towering monument to the victims of the attacks that shook the nation on 9/11.

May 02, 2013
THE V-J DAY KISS
An American sailor clutches a uniformed nurse in a back-bending, passionate kiss in Times Square to celebrate the long-awaited victory over Japan.
14 August 1945
What is this?

Visit www.historyanswers.co.uk and tell us

Is it a...
A. Perfume atomiser
B. Carbolic steam spray
C. Mosquito deterrent

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Revolution! 17 PAGES OF HISTORIC UPRISINGS

Revolution: A forcible overthrow of a system leading to dramatic and wide-reaching change to the social order.
Over 2000 years of revolutions

The Haitian Revolution

In 1804, the Haitian Revolution, often considered the first successful revolution in Latin America, was victorious. This revolution led to the independence of Haiti, which was formerly known as the French colony of Saint-Domingue. The revolution began in 1791 and ended in 1804, marking the end of slavery in Haiti.

The Scottish War for Independence

This war was fought between 1314 and 1328, and it was a major conflict in Scottish history. The war began with a rebellion against English rule and ended with the Treaty of Edinburgh in 1328, which recognized Scotland's independence.

The American Revolutionary War

The American Revolutionary War began in 1775 and ended in 1783. This war was fought between the Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain, and it led to the independence of the United States of America.

The Taiping Rebellion

The Taiping Rebellion was a major uprising in China that took place from 1850 to 1864. It was led by the Taiping, a religious movement that sought to establish a utopian society based on Confucian principles.

The Russo-Japanese War

The Russo-Japanese War was fought between Russia and Japan from 1904 to 1905. It was fought over Korea and Manchuria, and it resulted in a significant defeat for Russia, which lost a major naval battle and had to negotiate a peace treaty.

The Haga Rebellion

The Haga Rebellion was a series of uprisings in Japan that took place from 1850 to 1864. The rebellion was led by the Haga clan, who sought to restore the power and influence of the shogunate.

The Mexican Revolution

The Mexican Revolution was fought from 1910 to 1920. It was a major conflict that led to significant political and social changes in Mexico. The revolution was fought between the government and various revolutionary factions, and it resulted in the overthrow of President Porfirio Díaz and the establishment of a republic.

The Spanish Civil War

The Spanish Civil War was fought from 1936 to 1939. It was a conflict between the Republican government and the Nationalist forces, led by General Francisco Franco. The war was fought over the future of Spain and its place in the international community.

The Algerian War of Independence

The Algerian War of Independence was fought from 1954 to 1962. It was fought between France and the Western Sahara and Algeria. The war was fought to free the Algerian people and end French colonial rule.

The Cuban Revolution

The Cuban Revolution was fought from 1953 to 1959. It was led by Fidel Castro and resulted in the overthrow of the Batista regime and the establishment of a socialist state in Cuba.

The Indonesian Revolution

The Indonesian Revolution was fought from 1945 to 1949. It was fought between Indonesia and the Netherlands, and it resulted in the independence of Indonesia.
The American Revolution

North America 1775-1783

In 1775, just before two other major rebellions in history, the French and Haitian revolutions, the American Revolution began its declaration of independence from Britain. After being repeatedly taxed by the British, the thirteen colonies of North America united to elected royal officials and unanimously reject the authority of the British parliament. Britain sent its navy in to quell the uprising, but the United States were not yet ready. It was a long war of attrition that would end in 1783.

The Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton

Edinburgh 1748

Signaled in 1716 by Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, and the English parliament, this treaty marked the end of the first war for Scottish independence. Although Scotland's campaign wasn't as large as the two previous rebellions, it was a major step towards uniting itself. As laid out in the terms of the treaty in the year 1748, Great Britain granted Scotland's自主权, allowing it to rule itself independently behind a recognized border with Robert the Bruce as the rightful ruler.

Spanish Civil War

Spain 1936-39

1936's Spain was divided in two between right-wing Nationalists and left-leaning Republican forces. Both sides were poured with power before the army rebelled and forced the Republicans into power in 1939. The fight against fascism drew young men and women from all over Europe to join the International Brigades but also led to the deaths of thousands and the loss of many freedoms. In Spain, the war continued for years after the loss of the Republic.

The Taiping Rebellion

China 1850-64

Hong Xiuquan was a poor peasant from Guangdong who began his career as a Christian missionary and later came to believe he was the younger brother of Jesus Christ. He became a preacher himself and amassed followers of up to 200,000 loyalists to the Taiping army, allowing him to rule an area in southern China. Despite the efforts of the Qing Dynasty local authorities, who sent 400,000 soldiers to suppress them, Hong Xiuquan's army continued its rise in power and eventually the rebellion ended.

American Revolution

Mexico '16-17

Porfirio Diaz had ruled Mexico since 1876, promoting its economy at the cost of the poor. Only the wealthy could vote, and when Francisco Madero announced that he would run against Diaz, the president imprisoned him. Madero escaped and published a letter detailing massacre reforms for the working class. Mexico was ready to throw its hands into power.

Madero Rebels

Mexico '17

Porfirio Diaz had ruled Mexico since 1876, promoting its economy at the cost of the poor. Only the wealthy could vote, and when Francisco Madero announced that he would run against Diaz, the president imprisoned him. Madero escaped and published a letter detailing massacre reforms for the working class. Mexico was ready to throw its hands into power.

The Chinese Revolution

China 1949-1952

During a period of significant turmoil following the Second World War the Communist Party of China (CPC) rose to the fore and sought to overthrow the nationalist government of China, led by the Kuomintang (KMT). While the KMT was supported by the US with financial and military aid, there was little support for the CPC from Russia. The CPC was much better organized, though, and when Stalin’s Red Army invaded with the CPC, the combined People’s Liberation Army, led by Mao Zedong, swept across China to proclaim the People’s Republic of China under the communist regime. In October 1949.
Hall of fame
10 ICONIC REVOLUTIONARIES

Be it a hero or a tyrant every revolution needs a leader to bind the people to the cause, discover ten influential figures who did so for better or worse.

Walter (Wat) Tyler

ENGLISH 1300s

No one liked paying taxes, especially if they reason was seeing from the impact of the Black Death. But in 1381 a new poll tax was enough to spark a mass rebellion. The Peasants Revolt. Like many Wat Tyler was sick of serfdom, and so he led a search against social injustice from Kent to London in order to un his grievances to King Richard II. Later negotiations appeared to be going well, with the 16 years old boy king seemingly responding to the demands of Tyler and the rebels for greater liberty, but during a subsequent meeting at Smithfield Tyler was stabbed to death by local officials. With their leader gone the revolt petered out, and within weeks the king had gone back on his promises.

Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi

INDIAN 1869-1948

Not only did Mahatma (Great Soul) Gandhi bring about India’s independence, he did it without spilling a drop of blood. As a young barrister, Gandhi fought to improve the rights of Indian immigrants in South Africa. Subsequently, his non-violent means of protest, was a great success. Returning to India in 1914, he amassed a large following that called for an end to British rule through passive resistance. In the Thirties, Gandhi was disenchanted by the growing divide between Hindus and Muslims, and it heralded the splitting of his nation into India and Pakistan in 1947.

Che Guevara

ARGENTINE 1928-1967

His face symbolises revolution. Perhaps more than any other, Che Guevara and Fidel Castro were another revolutionary, who bought into the dream of communists, believing it to be a remedy for the poverty and corruption he’d witnessed first hand as a doctor in Latin America. Four years after being the Cuban hero, in 1959 they had toppled the US-backed Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista. By 1963, however, Guevara’s desire to take communism elsewhere had alienated him, and he struck off on his own. He met a grisly end while fighting the Bolivian government.
For me, ‘revolution’ simply means radical change.
Aung San Suu Kyi
A ROUNDHEAD SOLDIER

THE SUPPORTERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO Fought AGAINST KING CHARLES I
ENGLISH CIVIL WAR, 1642 – 1651

When King Charles I became monarch of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1625, he found himself in a power struggle with the English Parliament. Charles I believed in the Divine Right of Kings while Parliament believed that they should have power as elected representatives. Parliament was becoming increasingly uncooperative and this battle led to the English Civil War. Royalist forces of “Cavaliers” backed Charles I while Parliament supporters or “Roundheads” led by Cromwell and General Fairfax would fight against them.

So what was daily life like among the puritan ranks of the New Model Army?

PRAYER AND PERSONAL GROOMING

The Puritan belief of Roundheads saw them begin each day with prayer, some Roundheads also using the early morning as a time to reflect and meditate on the day ahead. If necessary, Roundheads would also closely examine their hair to reflect their plain, conservative lifestyle. The resulting haircut was what led to their derogatory ‘roundhead’ name.

MORNING BREAKFAST

Roundhead soldiers weren’t wealthy, with some of their rations even being drawn from the unemployed, and this was reflected in the first meal of the day. Breakfast would typically be cheese and bread or salted fish usually followed with water to drink. Soldiers on the march would be lucky to even be granted that small luxury and would be expected to forage or hunt for food.

MILITARY TRAINING

Musketts were becoming an commonplace in battle and one of the key advantages they had over the longbowmen they replaced is that it took just a few days to train a musketeer. However, practicing formations wasn’t quite as simple for either musketeers or pikemen; both of whom

How do we know this?

The definitive text on Roundheads is Covenant and Roundheads English Civil War 1642 – 1651 by Christopher Hibbert, which goes into great detail on how the conflict developed. Another text worthy of investigation is the hefty After the English Civil War by PH. Newnham. This covers the period leading up to the conflict and also the fallout, as the Roundheads took hold of England following their defeat of the Cavaliers.
made up the bulk of the Roundhead ranks, and so practising formation rather than practising with the weaponry itself was very much part of a Roundhead’s daily routine.

**REMOVING ARMOUR**

Musketeers did not wear armour but pikemen, who made up the majority of the Roundhead army, were not as fortunate. The breastplate and plaited helmet were hot and heavy to wear and one of the few pleasures pikemen could look forward to after a day of marching was removing the items. By contrast, the main concern for musketeers at the end of a day was ensuring that gunpowder didn’t become damp, which would render their muskets useless.

**RECREATION TIME**

Roundheads were great smokers of tobacco, in contrast to the Cavaliers whose use of the weed was less common. As Roundheads frowned upon other leisurely activities common at the time, such as attending theatre and as options for entertainment were limited for practical reasons during marches, smoking pipes was one of the few recreational activities they enjoyed on a daily basis.

**RELIGIOUS SINGING**

Religion was a recurring theme in a Roundhead’s day and while prayer meetings and psalm sessions would occur during the day, there would also be a lot of religious singing in the evenings and early mornings when they would retire at the end of the day. This was particularly true of soldiers who weren’t in a match (and therefore away from nearby towns) or those defending themselves from enemy siege (to keep up their morale).

**SLEEP**

Whether it was in the field or in a town, the military ranks were displayed through sleeping arrangements just as they were through morning breakfast. Roundhead soldiers had to organise small parties to guard the camp site in the field in case of enemy attacks such as bridges if they were building a town, where senior officers could sleep in a tent or a nearby inn.

“Practising formation rather than practising with the weaponry itself was very much part of a Roundhead’s daily routine.”
How to make...
RUSSIAN BLACK BREAD

A STAPLE FOOD OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, 1917

METHOD

The shortage of black bread during WWI was a contributory cause of the Russian Revolution of 1917. So much so that Lenin's revolutionary Bolsheviks adopted the slogan 'Peace, Land and Bread'! Discover how you can re-create this Russian dietary staple.

Ingredients
- 1 cup of warm water
- 1 teaspoon of yeast
- Molasses (about one of a cup)
- Salt (1/2 teaspoon)
- Rye flour (1/2 to 1 cup)
- Caraway seeds

1. Carefully mix together one third of a cup's worth of molasses and one cup of warm water, then. Sprinkle yeast over the top of the water and molasses mixture and then leave it to stand until there is a spongy-like consistency. This will take at least five minutes.

2. Now, add around two and a half cups of rye flour and beat until smooth. Rub in with the tip of a knife a heaped core of salt.

3. Cover the mixture with a cloth and then leave it in a warm place - a recently heated but now cooling oven might be required to provide a suitably warm location - for around half an hour.

4. Gradually add more rye flour into the mixture until the dough is stiff. Knead the dough on a floured surface until stiff and slightly sticky. Carefully form the dough mixture into a ball and then grease a bowl. Place the mixture in the bowl, cover just as you did before and then replace it into a warm environment - this will take at least two or three hours.

5. Place the dough mixture on a floured surface once again and gently knead out the air bubbles. Now it's time to knead and roll the dough into the desired shape and place it on a lightly greased pan. Cover the pan with cling film and return it to a warm place once again to rise - this will take another one to two hours.

6. The next step in the process is to preheat your oven to 175 degrees Celsius or 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Baking pan fur further, remember to take the plastic wrap away from the bread. Lightly taste the top of your loaf in oil and add a sprinkling of caraway seeds. When the oven has preheated to the correct temperature, place your Russian black bread loaf in the oven for between 35 and 40 minutes.

DID YOU MAKE IT? HOW DID IT GO? www.historyanswers.co.uk /AllAboutHistory /AboutHistoryMag
The French Revolutionary Army was an attempt to organize the ranks of revolutionaries, born from the classes of the Second Estate, who rose against the monarchy under King Louis XVI in 1792 and 1793, and thus the uniforms of different soldiers varied greatly, apart from the matching cockade worn by all soldiers.

A FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

A LINE INFANTRYMAN OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY ARMY.

FRANCE, 1792-1804

TROUSERS

The bulk of the early French Revolutionary Army was made of sans-culottes from the lower classes, which translates to their wearing of trousers (as opposed to the fashionable culottes and breeches as can be seen here of the wealthier revolutionaries).

BAYONET

The significance of the bayonet was enormous. Used for close-quarters fighting and assault, the introduction of bayonets did not occur until the early nineteenth century at Napoleon Bonaparte's insistence, who tried to restore some semblance of order to the army by also mating them with knapsacks, water bottles, blankets, and ammunition pouches for muskets.

COCKADE

The French Revolutionary Army was an attempt to organize the ranks of revolutionaries, born from the classes of the Second Estate, who rose against the monarchy under King Louis XVI in 1792 and 1793, and thus the uniforms of different soldiers varied greatly, apart from the matching cockade worn by all soldiers.

ANATOMY OF

THE

ARMY

OF

FRANCE

FROM

1792

TO

1804

MUSKET

Not all soldiers were luck enough to get a weapon in the first few years of the army owing to a shortage of both weapons and ammunition. Often, they were equipped only with smaller weapons, until around 1800, when most were armed with the Charleville Flintlock Musket, seen here.

SHOES

Most soldiers of the French Revolutionary Army were conscripts chosen by lottery but, as most of the upper classes were able to bribe their way out of conscription, the army was largely comprised of poorer civilians clad in their own shoes and hats owing to a shortage of proper clothing.
How to DEFEND A FORT

FORTS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1775-1783

ANATOMY OF A STAR FORT

- **Glacis**
  - The outer part of the star fort comprised a glacis (a sloping slope) to minimize the impact of cannon fire.

- **Triangular bastions**
  - Since each bastion of a star fort was designed to defend the other, its primary purpose was to cover the other side.

- **Ditches/moats**
  - The inner walls consisted of a glacis or moat (water-filled ditch) to slow down advancing opposition.

- **Strategic positioning**
  - Cannons at the base of the star fort were crucial as they covered both adjacent ends.

- **Detached outworks**
  - Ravelling, stockades, barracks, and casemates were different types of detached outworks that provided added security measures to the fort.

---

**REVOLUTIONARY FORTS**

- **FORT WASHINGTON**
  - Built in 1776, this fortification was crucial in preventing the British from gaining control of the Hudson River and the city of New York.

- **FORT TICONDEROGA**
  - Built by the French during the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), this fort was a significant stronghold during the American Revolution.

- **FORT MIFFLIN**
  - Built in 1776 on Mud Island (now Center Island), on the Delaware River, to protect Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- **FORT MOULTON**
  - Named after the commander at the Battle of Sullivan's Island, General Nathaniel Moultrie; built to guard Charleston, South Carolina, in 1776.

- **FORT LEE**
  - Captured by British soldiers led by Lord Charles Cornwallis in November 1776, Washington had to evacuate the fort, as many supplies were lost.

---

**How to Stockpile ammunition & provisions**

- Store adequate quantities of ammunition and food for the garrison. This is a critical element in the successful defense of a fort. Fort garrisons can live for anything from one day to weeks or even months. Preparation is essential but in the event of a surprise attack, the garrison must stage from an enemy appearance, for artillery and ammunition.

---

**Sound the alarm**

- This informs the men to arm themselves for battle and alert the chimney to their danger or movements. If an alarm is sounded, and the battle is imminent. Each garrison has different ways of sounding an alarm, but they all mean one thing: alarm. Whether from a charging cavalry, enemy sightings or a surprise attack.
Revolution!

How to defend a fort

While it is true that a military force can hold a fort against an attacking army, if there is one thing that military history has taught us it is that this is not a certainty. This was no truer than at the Battle of Plas Washington, where an army of over 10,000 British soldiers - bolstered with Russian mercenaries - managed to overrun the tactically superior browns on Manhattan Island, New York, which was being held by the United States with a force of 3,000 men.

From an American point of view, the outcome was a disaster. These were not too few men left behind as a garrison and the established defensive lines were not manned or held properly. Coupled with a poor use of the fort's available infrastructure, this meant that the American forces were severely outnumbered. A whopping 10,277 of the 10,000-strong American forces were taken prisoner, 98 were killed, and 860 more wounded.

**Reconnoiter**

Next depict soldiers to reconnoiter the opposition's battle lines, count the numbers and position any tanks or other heavy artillery. Position a support gun during battle. Secret stashes, stormdrums, and patrols positioned at strategic locations to warn of reinforcements, changes in the attackers movements, and cover every vantage point.

**Prepare for the worst**

Preparation is key to strategy. These include scouting to prevent surprise attacks, always having a number of reserves, digging trenches, and reinforcing breaches. Rearm the fort's defenses and armaments. These also include secret defenses, cache encampments and counterattacking strategies. Even weather conditions have played major battles in history.

**Hold, Steady, Fire!**

Lay down some fire. Cannons and mortars are the main weapons used in forts, and they are only used if the opposition is within range. Cannons have a sometimes exchanged 3 days between the garrison and opposition before the next course of action that brings deployment of cavalry upon seeing enemy advancement.

**Raise the flag**

Raise the flag to signal the end of the battle and indicate to troops in the battlefield that a truce has been declared. Likewise, a flag of truce is raised if the garrison surrenders, throws down their flag in order to signal a declaration or an agreement to talk to the enemy to avoid any further loss of life.

**Other Types of Fort**

**Medieval Forts**

- **Walls of Dubrovnik, Croatia:** The fortification of Dubrovnik's outer walls surrounded the city and gave rise to the Dubrovnik Republic, which was a major power in the Mediterranean.

**Polygonal Forts**

- **Fort Belvoir, Malta:** Explosive shells led to the use of star forts for coastal defense and gave rise to polygonal forts, as seen at Belvoir and Matala in Malta.

**Ancient Forts**

- **Great Wall of China:** The giant wall was first built during the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BCE). Though its purpose was defensive, it served as a symbol of power.

**Hill Forts**

- **Maiden Castle:** Among the largest and most complex of Iron Age hill forts in Europe, Maiden Castle could house over 3,000 people.
After completing his studies in France, Brunel's first project was the construction of the underwater Thames Tunnel, which began in 1825. Brunel was put in charge of the project as engineer, and quickly distinguished himself, although he narrowly avoided drowning after an early part of the tunnel flooded in 1828.

His first major project was also his last. Brunel's final major commission was for a bridge spanning the Avon Gorge in Bristol, which he gained after winning a competition. The construction would become the Avon Gorge Suspension Bridge and was completed until five years after his death. A plaque is placed on the bridge in his honour.

Brunel put the "Great" in the Great Western Railway. After being appointed chief engineer of the railway in 1835, he improved the broad gauges, which were thicker than standard gauges. His impressive achievements include the Maidenhead Bridge and Blackfriars Railway Bridge in London. The MV "Great Britain" was also named in his honour.

It was a family-wide passion. A passion for architecture ran in the family. He worked with his father, Marc, during the construction of Thames Tunnel, and his son, Henry Marc, later became a civil engineer working on the design of the Blackfriars Railway Bridge in London.
Normandy's nightmare war...

Normandy in the Time of Darkness: Everyday Life and Death in the French Channel Ports 1940-45
Douglas Boyd
This beautifully written new book documents the horrific four year long tragedy that was Normandy's war - occupied by the Germans, and bombed by the Allies. Narrated largely in the words of French, German and Allied eye-witnesses, this volume captures the personal stories of survivors, including the heart-breaking last letters of executed hostages and resistance.

Handback: 219 x 152mm - 168 pages - 978 0 7103 4657 7 - £25.00

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CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF LONDON UNDERGROUND

MAYOR OF LONDON
CAVALRY

Good use of cavalry by Steado Boborva and poor use of cavalry by his Spanish opposite, José María Barreiro, was arguably crucial in the Battle of Boyaca's outcome. Boborva's cavalry remained free throughout the engagement, while Barreiro's was largely pinned down and trapped.

WEAPONS

Despite holding a numerical advantage, the Spanish tactically box the rebel army into a corner, neutralizing it as well as neutralizing the Guadalupe Valley. American soldiers were somewhat less effective at their range, resulting in many kills. However, they compensated for this.
The Battle of Boyacá was a key event in the war for Latin American independence. The fight was between a group of patriots under the command of Simón Bolívar and a Spanish-led army under the command of General José María Barreiro. Today, the battle is considered the turning point in the eventual separation of much of northern South America from the Spanish empire, leading to the establishment of new independent countries, including Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, as well as the nation of Bolivia.

The battle occurred around 94 miles northeast of the city of Bogotá, on a road in the town of Curra, on July 7, 1819. After surprising Barreiro's forces, Bolívar led his forces to victory over the Andes Mountains, thus securing his victory. The battle was fought using local terrain that offered both sides natural advantages and also a perfect battlefield for the New World.

Bolívar knew this and used it to his advantage. Barreiro, who was not aware of the battle, was outflanked and outnumbered. Despite being overpowered, commanders in the field did not face a clear advantage because they were not expected. Both armies marched with great speed towards Bogotá, each attempting to gain the upper hand through speed.

Despite Barreiro's numerical advantage, Bolívar was able to use the Battle of Boyacá as a turning point in the war for independence from Spain. This victory led to the eventual independence of Colombia and its neighboring countries, including what is now modern-day Venezuela and Ecuador. Bolívar's victory was a significant milestone in the overall struggle for independence in South America.
**The race begins**

After clashing on 25 July at the Battle of Vargas - a clash that ended in a draw - Bolivar plots a direct course for Bogotá as it will give him a tactical advantage over Barreiro and the Spanish royalist forces. He arrives in Tunja, northeast of Bogotá and takes the town with ease. Barreiro hears of Bolivar's capture of Tunja and realising Bolivar's intended destination, makes haste towards the city.

**Spanish vanguard advances**

Bolivar orders the Spanish vanguard to advance down the valley river to the bridge and set up high ground where they take-up defensive positions. Little does Barreiro know that Bolivar is closer to his position than he could have realised with his advanced scouting party, witnessing the Spanish vanguard's charging at Tunja. The scouting heads to Bolivar's north with orders to position.

**The British attack**

Barreiro's main army now has around 1,800 troops, split between infantry and cavalry units, plus three cannons. Suddenly aware that Bolivar is attacking, Barreiro attempts to marshal his disorientated forces and position them for the assault. Before he gets the chance, however, the British Legions fighting under Bolivar and led by Commander Arthur Sandes, charge and engage Barreiro's artillery units.
10 BARREIRO CAPTURED AND CONCLUSION
Now surrounded, Barreiro surrenders to Bolivar. Barreiro’s army suffered over 100 deaths, 150 injuries and 1,600 taken prisoner. Bolivar’s forces suffered 13 dead and 53 injured, with no prisoners taken. It’s a victory for Bolivar who takes Bogotá unopposed.

07 Barreiro attempts to reach the vanguard
With his cannons taken out and his army in disarray, Barreiro attempts to move forward to rendezvous with the elite vanguard who, unknown to him, are still pinned down by Santander on the other side of the river. Collecting what little of his forces were not occupied, he attempts to navigate the unfolding chaos.

08 Anzoátegui cuts off the main force
Barreiro’s progress is short-lived as General Anzoátegui swings his forces around and creates a barrier between the Spanish General and the bridge over the Boyaca River, effectively stopping his and his remaining forces from these different sides. Many of the Spanish-led main force proceed to retreat or surrender.

09 Vanguard advances then retreats
The Spanish vanguard pushes to the river and uses Bachiller’s forces, but it’s too late. The troops must leave their leader Colonel Juan Talavera stranded on the Boyaca bridge. Talavera and the vanguard are taken prisoner.
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Eye Witness
THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F KENNEDY DALLAS, USA 22 NOVEMBER 1963
Written by Jodie Tiley

I heard what I thought was a motorcycle backfire. Then I heard the second shot and immediately I realised it was a rifle.

Hugh Aynesworth was standing across the street from the newsroom of the dally when United States President John F. Kennedy was shot. He was seen as the press photographer watching the President pass by. But it turned out to be the most eventful street of the entire weekend as the President made his speech from the open-top limousine and moments later, the shots were heard.

"I was there by chance. I went to the newsroom because I knew there was breaking news in the Dallas Morning News newsroom. I arrived at the same time as the President's motorcade. I was just a few feet away from the car. I heard the first shot and immediately I realised it was a rifle."

Aynesworth's initial reaction was one of shock and disbelief. He remembers, "As the shots continued, I saw people around me khắp the street. I saw no one reacting. People were just standing there, looking at each other."

Aynesworth quickly realised that the situation was serious and he immediately started to gather information. He went to the County Records Building to get a better view of the area and to see what was happening.

"I heard the second shot and immediately I realised it was a rifle. I ran outside and saw people running away. I knew it was serious. I saw people hitting the ground."

Aynesworth was able to get a clear view of the area and saw the President lying on the ground. He quickly alerted the police and ambulance services to the situation.

"I saw the President being taken away on a stretcher. I saw the blood on the ground. It was a very sad moment."

Aynesworth's story is a testament to the power of the press in times of crisis. His quick thinking and ability to gather information helped to inform the public about what was happening and to provide much-needed context to the tragedy that unfolded in Dallas.
The day a President died

\[ \text{Time} \quad \text{Event} \]

11:30 AM Eye witness

11:45 AM Motorcycle enters Dallas Plaza

12:15 PM Arrival at the Dallas Trade Mart

12:15 PM Presidential limousine arrives Dallas Plaza

12:30 PM Shots are fired

12:30 PM Lee Harvey Oswald leaves Texas School Book Depository

12:33 PM Depository Building sealed off

12:30 PM Kennedy pronounced dead

12:30 PM Oswald seen walking at bus stop

1:00 PM Police officer Ali Tippit murdered

1:15 PM Police discover rifle

1:30 PM Press Secretary names official announcement

1:30 PM Oswald enters theatre

1:30 PM Oswald arrest attempt made

2:00 PM Kennedy's body driven to Air Force One

2:00 PM Lyndon Johnson becomes 36th President

I grabbed a television car with two reporters in it, told them what I heard and we sped like mad to the scene.
became public knowledge that the prime suspect, a former US Marine, had defected to the Soviet Union four years previously and returned with Russian visas.

It was during the Cold War and tense relations between the US and the Soviet Union that the issue of Kennedy and Oswald, as well as the public reaction to the assassination, became a focus of speculation and conspiracy theories. For Aynesworth, there was no doubt who the killer was. "My thoughts on the Warren Commission," he wrote, "got right to the point. I was sure he had shot the President until the day I heard the evidence for myself."

After the Kennedy shooting, Aynesworth worked with the Warren Commission to find out the truth. He interviewed many witnesses and came to the conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin. However, there were many others who claimed to have been involved in the assassination.

Aynesworth had access to the Warren Commission's findings and was able to write the first book about the assassination. "Witness To History" was released in 1963 and quickly became a bestseller. Aynesworth's book was based on the Warren Commission's findings and the evidence presented.

In 1969, Aynesworth wrote "The Assassination of JFK: A Report for the Times," which was released in the UK. The book was a comprehensive look at the Kennedy assassination and its aftermath. Aynesworth wrote that the Warren Commission's findings were not enough to prove that Oswald was the sole assassin. He believed that there were other conspiracies involved in the assassination.

Aynesworth died in 2006, but his work on the Kennedy assassination remains a key source for those studying the event. His books and articles continue to be read and studied by historians and those interested in the Kennedy assassination.
Who were they?
The Maya were one of the most prominent ancient civilizations of the Americas. Unlike the Aztecs, who later dominated the area in the 15th century, the Maya were self-sufficient and elaborated stone cities and documented evidence of their existence.

Class and society
Society was split into rigidly defined class structures and professions: the nobility, priesthood, common people and slaves. They were ruled by kings, or 'kuhul ajaw' (holy gods), who were viewed as semi-deity figures and representatives of the gods.

Where were they?
The Maya civilization spanned the breadth of ancient Mesoamerica—the name of the area that encompassed the Yucatan Peninsula and modern-day Guatemala, as well as parts of Belize, Honduras, El Salvador and a few of the states of Mexico.
They loved sport
The Maya even had their own ball game, which involved bouncing a rubber ball through hoops located alongside a massive stone court. The games had enormous cultural significance, and are believed to have involved human sacrifices as part of the occasion.

Sacrifice and torture
There is also a darker side to Mayan civilisation. There were frequent bloody civil wars between rival Mayan city states, and torture, self-mutilation and human sacrifice were components of their religious festivals, with bloodshed believed to be necessary to satisfy the Gods.

How advanced were they?
Evidence suggests the Maya were more advanced than other American civilisations of the time, notably in the fields of astronomy and mathematics, creating a 365-day calendar and using the number zero. They also wrote in hieroglyphics and made paper from bark.

Urban populations
The Maya's most visible legacy is their great stone cities. As many as 40 of these were built, each home to between 20,000 and 30,000 people. At its peak, the population of the Maya civilisation was as high as 7 million. Some of the major cities included Tikal, Palenque, Palenque, Palenque, Palenque, and Chichen Itza.

Trade and commerce
Much of the Maya civilisation's economy was based on using local resources like the balsam tree to their advantage, participating in long-distance trading with other Mesoamerican cities. Routes were established stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to Colombia, in addition to sea routes to the Caribbean islands.

The unexplained apocalypse
Between 800 and 900 CE, the Maya fell into decline. Cities were abandoned until the civilisation had all but vanished. The reason for this remains inconclusive, but while some blame overpopulation and war, recent theories suggest it was a weather phenomenon such as drought.

Key figures
Pakal the Great
682-722 CE
This Mayan emperor ruled for 39 years. He was behind some of Maya's finest architecture.

Kinich Kan Balam II
800-860 CE
Kinich Kan Balam II was the son of Pakal. He was responsible for building the famous Temple of the Inscriptions.

Jasaw Chan K'awiil 1
682-734 CE
The ruler of Tikal, one of the biggest Maya cities, who cemented strength with victory against rival city Calakmul.

Yuk'in Chan K'awiil
734-786 CE
Yuk'in was the son of Jasaw. He expanded his father's empire by greatly expanding the city of Tikal.

Itzamna
The Maya god of agriculture, creation, writing and healing, whose name translates as "iguana house."

Major events
Mayan alphabet
750 BCE
The first developed system of written language was introduced among Mayans in the pre-Columbian Americas.

Hierarchical system
300 BCE
The hierarchical system allowed ruling with kings and nobles adopted by the Mayans.

Teotihuacán built
100 BCE
This was the largest and most significant of the Mayan cities, it was the trading centre of Mesoamerica.

Destruction of Teotihuacán
600 CE
An apocalyptic event possibly a fire during a war - destroys the city, marking the beginning of the decline.

End of the Mayans
900 CE
The ancient city of Tikal is abandoned, which indicates the end of the Classic Maya civilisation.
What if... The slave states had won?

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. 1865

Written by Jonathan O'Callaghan

What if the slave states had won?

There were two major accomplishments of the civil war and they are the preservation of the Union and emancipation. If the Union hadn't stayed together that unified the United States had broken into two, then it's likely that other regions of the US would have taken advantage of Confederate secession or would have succeeded themselves, either from the then existing North or the South. So you could certainly see an independent Midwest and the areas from California through to Washington state probably could have made itself an own place even within the Confederacy there. We certainly sections like East Tennessee that were vigorously Union during the war and which might have pulled away this was one of the major arguments against succession to begin with. Where did it stop? So I expect that it would have continued that process of creating smaller autonomous republics within the space that is today the continental United States.

So the United States would have been a series of smaller countries rather than one whole one? Yes the United States is bigger than continental Europe, so there's no reason why it couldn't be 45 independent republics. We tend to look at the stage of the US and regard it as somewhat inevitable that it would go from the Atlantic to the Pacific but there's no reason that it is inevitable.

Would slavery still have been abolished? The question of emancipation has broader global implications, including that slavery would not have ended in 1863. There's no reason to think that if the Confederate states had won the war - not necessarily conquering the North, but at least fighting to a draw - they would have voluntarily given up slavery. Certainly not any time in the rest of the 18th century World opinion could have turned to the point that they would voluntarily relinquish slavery in the 20th century. But even that is hard to imagine playing out. That there has implications in Brazil and other nations holding power in the Western hemisphere, some of which emancipated their slaves after the US civil war because they had seen what happened in the US and wanted to avoid that kind of bloody continuation. So instead, you've got a very different future where slave labour has a new lease of life. We're talking about a 20th century in which slavery is a vital part of the labour scheme and the social and political structures of large countries in the Western Hemisphere.

If the US had permanently divided into North and South, could either have thrived? From a global terms from the perspective of Britain and France, it would have been a very good thing to divide the US in half. Both those empires would have benefited a sigh of relief because by 1850 the entire US already had the largest economy in the world, but separately the North and South didn't. The South would have needed to buy a huge amount of manufactured goods from the North, so those might have been some kind of agreement between the two, although the unpleasing war would have left the South turning towards Europe for its sources of Manufactured goods and European nations had been some kind of agreement between the two, although the unpleasant war would have left the South turning towards European manufacturers pursuing trade agreements with European nations. Sooner than it would have turned to the North. In 1860, while the South was rich and productive, it was apparent that the development path the North was on was towards more intensive industrial and urban development was the scope for future success. By 1890 or 1900 the South would have been apparent that basing your economy around the production of staple crops, like the South had done with cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco was not a good long term strategy. So the North would've been in a much better position.

Would the US still have entered World War II? If the South had started making trade agreements with Britain, it would have sparked tensions between the North and the UK, and that might well have reduced the likelihood of them entering World War I. Whether a South that's mostly had to Europe would have felt compelled to enter is hard to say.
Lincoln’s fortunes are tied to the war, the difference between a great president and a terrible one hinged on the fate of the armies.”
What if... THE SLAVE STATES HAD WON

they wouldn't have been nearly as much help unless they dramatically expanded their industrial base, and that was a big part of why the US involvement in World War I was so valuable—it was the combined economic power of the whole US and its industrial capacity so that would have played out on the world stage very differently by the early 20th century.

How would the North losing have affected Britain?
It was pretty apparent that the leadership of the British government wanted to mediate for peace. Although I don't think that was entirely altruistic; I mean they came very close to recognising the Confederacy as it was in September 1862 and it was only really the Battle of Antietam that stopped them doing that. They were interested in re-establishing trade negotiations. They wanted to begin doing again by that point because the Confederate embargo on cotton had begun to really punch in Britain. I think they also imagined that a weakened North was a better proposition for them in the long run. The Union victory is credited with helping pass the various reform acts in Britain during the 1860s as well as the liberalisation of voting rules. Without that global victory for democracy as they saw it, I think those things might have never happened or would have happened much later.

How would it have gone without Lincoln in charge?
McClellan was not a sympathetic character in the pantheon of Civil War generals, but he was in a particular position because radicals in the Democratic party that nominated him on a platform that called to start negotiating for peace. Even though he did his best to distance that aspect of his platform, there would have been a lot of pressure within the party as soon as he was inaugurated in March 1865 to negotiate for peace. Without Lincoln's military victories, the war still wouldn't have been over. Without Little Bighorn, Grant would have still been fighting against General Robert E. Lee outside Petersburg, and it may well have been that McClellan came into office and immediately suspended fighting, and started negotiating for peace. It would have been hard for him & his that, though, given the sacrifices soldiers had made. The little support he had was among soldiers who felt policy. Lincoln believed that he was going to last until at least as late as the end of August 1864, and it was only the victories of Sherman at the Battle of Atlanta (July 1864) and Admiral Farragut at the Battle of Mobile Bay (August 1864) that saved the Union. It also saved the Republican party's electoral votes. So, Lincoln would have been elected and the war ended with him in the White House. Certainly, if he had not been re-elected that would have produced a very different outcome.

How would the North losing have affected Britain?

What were the turning points of the war?
The twin victories of Gettysburg and Vicksburg were essential for establishing the Northern war movement which had gained strength in early 1861. The Democrats had regained seats in the Congress in the final 1862 and there wasn't a very unhappy, recessionary 1863, so those victories were essential. Another turning point was the election of 1864 when Lincoln anticipated he wouldn't be re-elected and that General George Brinton McClellan who had returned as the Democratic presidential candidate would be elected on the basis of a platform of negotiation against the war, and probably abandoning the emancipation as a Northern war goal.

"The Union victory is credited with helping pass the various reform acts in Britain during the 1860s."

How would it be different?

Real timeline

Alternate timeline
he was their true commander, but had he negotiated for peace then it might have said to them that their sacrifices had been in vain, it’s very likely that he would have stopped antimunition, and even if slavery had ended, he would have presided over a much faster reconstruction, which probably wouldn’t have involved the enfranchisement of black men.

So does this mean Lincoln would not have been assassinated?

Given how much we know of Wilkes Booth, he would have been happier to see his war continued and essentially abandoned by the Northern electorate. There’s no point killing him if there is no war to end it for.

Lincoln then goes down not as one of the best presidents, but as one of the worst, having presided over a civil war that ends poorly, if at all. Lincoln’s fortunes are intimately tied to the fate of the war, and the difference between being a great president and a terrible one hinged on the fate of the armies.

Without a unified United States, would other nations like Russia have grown more in the 20th century?

Russia is an interesting example because they had emancipated their slaves in 1861, and so there was some degree of friendship between Russia and the United States. Certainly, Russia was a great supporter of the North, never ever contemplated supporting the Confederacy in this fight. Lincoln saw the friendly rivalry between the Russian and American empires, and he talked famously about how the Russian empire in the West and the American empire in the West would be locked in a good and spread over the globe, that it would have been a substantially weakened America and so it’s likely that you would have seen other empires, both the British and French but also the Russian, growing stronger without that kind of counter-balancing force of the US.

What would it be like in the modern day?

It depends on the number of slaves in the South. Enslaved people had been pushing against the system of slavery from the very beginning, in North America when the Spanish empire was there. But it depends on the degree of success. A successful Confederacy would have done some stamping up slave patrols and the federal protection of slaves. The question is whether that encourages the British Empire to pursue slavery about in India and in other parts of its empire more vigorously or if it has essentially reversed something that was successful and has completely overturned all the Second half of the 20th century in the West and then much later in the East. Instead the trajectory would have gone in the other direction. I suspect it would have been much worse if the Confederacy had been successful and then stood behind slavery as a viable strategy for decades after that, or whoever knows how.

What if the slave states had won?

The unity of the powerful USA was World War I. It greatly helped bring the war to a swift conclusion and allows the Allies to manage extensions on 11 November 1918, April 1917.

The U.S. had been a neutral mediator during the Civil War, and many American citizens were marshaling for the war effort. It is possible that the United States had a more direct role in the war, influencing events on both sides.

The United States of America

The U.N. was formed after the war, and the United States played a significant role in the formation and development of this organization. The U.N. was instrumental in maintaining peace and promoting international cooperation.

1. United States of America
2. Confederate States of America
3. Brazil
4. Europe
5. Russia
6. Britain
7. United States
8. Europe
9. Brazil
10. Russia
11. Britain

Lincoln re-elected

Abraham Lincoln is re-elected as President, defeating Democrat George McClellan by showing him to continue fighting for victory, rather than peace.

Lincoln assassinated

President Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth and dies the next morning. Thanks to Lincoln’s vision, slavery is abolished in December 1865.

World War 1

The unity of the powerful USA was World War I. It greatly helped bring the war to a swift conclusion and allows the Allies to manage extensions on 11 November 1918, April 1917.

World War II

Without a unified USA, it is unlikely that the North South would enter The Great War, leaving the Allies without the crucial aid they needed to win the war in 1918, April 1917.
Vatican City, centre of the Roman Catholic faith, is ruled by the Pope. Decisions made here have helped to shape the history of the world.

The Vatican

On 11 April 1959, at the behest of Pope John XXIII, the remains of Pope Pius X were transported to Venice via the Vatican Railway.

04 The election of the current pope
In recent history the pope's home, open only to cardinals or those in official business with the Holy See, hosted the cardinals during the papal conclave. In March 2013 to elect a pope to succeed Benedict XVI following his resignation.

05 The transport of Pope Pius X
On 11 April 1959, at the behest of Pope John XXIII, the remains of Pope Pius X were transported to Venice via the Vatican Railway.

06 The radio station that broke news of the holocaust
Set up in 1939 by Monsignor Vatican Radio was run by the Jesuit Order. During WWII Pope Pius XII decided that Vatican Radio should keep the world informed about Nazi oppression. It later broke the story that Pope Pius XII was being murdered and put into a death camp, compelling media reports that were, until then, regarded as Allied propaganda.

07 The rescue of Pope Leo XIII
Said to be spared with earth from the site of the crucifixion in Jerusalem by St. Helena, the Vatican Gardens also include a huge rectangular basined lvy as in which Pope Leo XIII were supposedly lost and had to be retrieved by Monks Gouraud.
The Belvedere Courtyard, built in the late 15th Century, was where Pope Leo X showed off his prized white elephant Hanno to gathered crowds from 1514 to 1516. The elephant was a gift from King Manuel I of Portugal and was hugely popular with the papal court.
Jerusalem 33 CE

Jerusalem was the spiritual and economic centre of the ancient Middle East. 33 CE was the year that confirmed it as the world's most important city.

Near the end of a hundred years of Roman conquest, the population of Jerusalem had adapted to the occupiers. Citizens of the city would have seen trade increase dramatically under Roman rule, as goods flooded to from across the Mediterranean trade routes of the Empire.

However, the occupation was never totally welcomed nor accepted by Jerusalemites. The balance of power between Rome, the ruling dynasties (most prominently the Herod) and the mainly Jewish population was a cause of constant tension. Several Jewish revolts against the rule of Rome threatened the occupiers and in 33 CE the Roman governor Pontius Pilate put down a Galillean uprising, which saw 18 rebels killed.

This formed the backdrop for the trial of Jesus of Nazareth, who was accused of blasphemy and was put to death by Pilate for sedition. Accounts of Jesus's time in Jerusalem, leading to his crucifixion, are arguably the most important records ever to influence western culture.

Defiance against Rome continued and some 40 years on the city was almost totally destroyed by the Romans, ending a great Jewish rebellion. But this was not the end of the city, as it remains one of the world's most culturally significant locations.
Industry

Much of what was produced in the region was intended for local consumption and there was the opportunity to trade goods. Fresh, which has medicinal purposes, was harvested from the nearby Dead Sea while dates were also widely grown in the region. There was also a private bathhouse functioning as a temple although this was privately owned by the Emperor Augustus.

Education

While scholarship wasn’t necessarily an important aspect of Roman society, the study and interpretation of Holy Texts was a vital element of Jewish life. If you were illiterate, like a majority of the population at the time, you would have to rely on the rabbis and scribes to provide the Holy Texts for you. Writing was valued, but news and ideas were more often spread through word of mouth.

Technology

Architects were essential for any large, Roman-engineered city to deliver more water to the people and control disease. If you were well connected, you could expect to regularly visit a bath house or spa, as under these holdings it was considered a benefit. Such innovations were key to the health of the population and the comfort of the city.

Finance

In many began minting a new coin in the eastern Mediterranean called the denarius, which traders could use throughout the Roman world. Libraries could hold this coin with the Roman legion in residence in the area, as well as the many papyri that passed to the army each year. However, if you were wealthy enough you would also be expected to pay two main taxes: Tributum soli is a tax on land and Tributum capitis is a tax on personal property.

Military

As we’ve seen in the battle of Alesia, which was fought near it around the sixth century BC, the auxiliary troops assigned to Roman forts were tasked with keeping peace in the city and the region. As a result, you would be used in serving the regions of suspects as well as violent clashes in the streets.

Government

As you were accused of breaking the law you could be put before a court of rabbi and scribes for judgement. Depending on the crime severity you could go before High Priest Joseph, Gamaliel and his council or wise men, the Sanhedrin. Though this governance was directed to the High Priest ultimate power was in the hands of the emperor's Roman government, it was apparent from accounts of the trial of Jesus.
Heroes & Villains

Grigori Rasputin

St Petersburg, 1906, was the place and time at which an enigmatic and holy man charmed his way into the inner circles of Russian power.

Written by Dave Roos

Our image of Rasputin begins with these words:

That peculiar, hypnotic smile that even the photograph has the power to convey. Then there was the red beard, the greenish-tinged black hair, and the square-jawed Oriental look. The very few photographs that are available of him. Grigori Rasputin is surrounded by wealth and privilege, wealth and fame, and the glare of Vodnikov's era. What of these secrets that we still see in the wild and nameless

Where did he come from? And what power did he hold over his faithful followers, including the last Emperor of Russia?

The facts of Rasputin's life are well known to many historians and biographers. He was a man of mystery, a man of many talents. Even his name is obscure. Most historians agree that it is a reference to his native village of Pokrovskoye, where Russian playwright and Rasputin biographer Edward Radzinsky insists that it comes from the word raspus, meaning an immortal, good for nothing person.

Biographers have managed to narrow Rasputin's date of birth down to somewhere around early 1866. He was the sixth child of Efim Yakovlevich Rasputin, 20 years old, and Anna Vasilyevna, 19 years old. But little Grigori was the first of their children to survive infancy. Such losses were devastating, but not uncommon for a poor peasant family living in the harsh expanses of western Siberia.

From the start, Rasputin was an odd child. In his own words, he was skinny, skinny, and solitary, taken to wandering the woods and fields speaking to animals and conversing with God. He was born poor, but he was also intelligent, and his presence apparently appeared in strange ways to his own mother. Rasputin was a favorite target for ridicule by the small village that raised him.

By age 20, he was a drunk, an incompetent householder, and a drunkard. Even his marriage at age 19 (1885) to Polina Zotova, a 26-year-old stepmother and then three younger sisters, seemed to be in his future. Rasputin lived in the countryside, and his poverty was sufficient to ensure that he was not engaged in any other activity. Rasputin was also a strange man, with a strange dress sense. He would walk 51 kilometers in red trousers, a red shirt, and a large Russian Orthodox monk's cowl and a headdress.

Rasputin was now a strange man, wandering from village to village, begging for scraps of food. The summer was hot, and the way was rough and dirty, but he seemed to thrive on the visitation. For a man accustomed to a life of poverty and constant spiritual experiences, the new-regulated Rasputin was. Near the monastery he became a devotee of an ascetic priest named Brother Makar, who preached...
Heroes & Villains
GRIGORI RASPUTIN

Life in the time of the mad monk

Divine manifestations
19th century Russia was no stranger to the idea of mystical wanderers like Rasputin. Rasputin modelled his mystical persona on Brother Makary, an itinerant Orthodox ascetic who preached direct communion with God and worked miracles among his followers.

Bizarre religious cults
Rasputin embodied the Khyoty contradictory belief in strict asceticism and the spiritual power of sexual fertility. In Rasputin's Russia, both peasants and princes were susceptible to the idea that men and women could become one with the Holy Spirit through wild dancing and orgiastic abandon.

Injustice and inequality
Serfdom in Russia was outlawed in 1861, but most Russians were still poor peasants surviving on meagre farms. To raise money for his regime, the Tsar taxed the produce of these peasant farmers, leading to frequent riots in Russia.

Whispers of revolution
Karl Marx published The Communist Manifesto in 1848, and Vladimir Lenin translated the tract into Russian in the 1880s. By this time, the underground socialist movement was catching steam with anti-Tsarist intellectuals across Russia.

Military defeats
Emboldened by the colonial conquests of rival nations, Tsar Nicholas II tried to expand the Russian empire into neighbouring Manchuria. This sparked a disastrous war with Japan in 1904. The Tsar's defeat fuelled greater dissatisfaction and unrest.

Civil violence
On Sunday, 22 January 1905, peaceful demonstrators marched towards the Tsar's palace in St Petersburg to present a petition on workers' rights. The palace guards fired on the demonstrators, killing hundreds, with hundreds more trampled to death in the ensuing chaos. The seeds of the 1917 revolution were now firmly planted.
Heroes & Villains

GRIGORI RASPUTIN

Rasputin and the Tsarina

Tsarina Alexandra and Rasputin had something in common: they were both outsiders. Rasputin was an illiterate Siberian peasant who arrived in St. Petersburg among rumors of mystical healing powers and a raging influenza. Alexandra was a German-born "foreigner"—wife of the politically inept and unpopular Tsar Nicholas II. The two outsiders first forged their alliance when Rasputin mysteriously healed the life-threatening hemophilia of Alexandra's precious son—and stole her from the throne. Alleged Alexander was rejected by the palace court, so Rasputin quickly became her closest confidant and advisor. Tsar Nicholas II later tried to prove Russia's strength by taking the Russian forces to battle in World War I, but made a fateful decision that ultimately led to Rasputin's influence and power. Rasputin's close relationship with the Tsarina, Alexandra, further undermined her authority by finding his way into the top ministers and replacing them with loyalists hand-picked by Rasputin. Alexander's close and questionable relationship with Rasputin was one of the many reasons that the old Romanov regime was toppled in the Russian revolution.

"He would take their hands and peer into their souls with his mesmerising stare"

Defining moment

Pilgrimage to Verkhoturye 1897

A fellow peasant caught Rasputin trying to steal left-handed and beat him savagely. Rasputin recovered from his injuries but was even more "savage and vindictive" than usual, according to his punishers. Rasputin's son Maria says he wore his hair snarled across his forehead to hide a large scar from the beating. When caught stealing again he proposed his own sentence. He would embark on a 32-mile pilgrimage to the famous monastery at Verkhoturye. Rasputin thus began his life as a saintly wanderer, begging alms from strangers, communing with God and nature, and traveling holy sites across the forbidden Russian empire.

Timeline

- Rasputin frequently adjusted his age, but careful searches of church records uncovered his official birth date, which is also the day of Saint Gregory of Nyssa. Rasputin was his parents' sixth child, but the first of them to survive infancy.
- Young Rasputin was a troubled and strange child prone to wandering the woods and looking for girls while playing with his cousin Dmitry on a meadow. He led a lonely, feisty, and Дмитрий died of diphtheria. Rasputin entered a spiritual depression, further withdrawing from society.
- By 19 years old, Rasputin had a reputation as a drunkard, a fighter and a double womanizer. He was still about to find a wife. Rasputin first married, then killed three children, but never married again.
- After a transformative religious conversion at Verkhoturye, Rasputin returned to his village in the garb of a mystical holy man. His first followers were mostly young women, tending the first accusations of sexual deviance.
- While wandering through a field in his home village, Rasputin claims he had a vision of the Virgin Mary granting the hounds. He took it as a sign to continue his holy wanderings, so he set off on a two-year pilgrimage to Mount Athos, Greece, and the Holy Land in Jerusalem.
Heroes & Villains
GRIGORI RASPUTIN

After the February Revolution of 1917, Rasputin's corpse was exhumed from his grave and burned with gasoline by a 'Yusupov's poisoners'. According to Yusupov's own published accounts, the prince and his companions invited Rasputin to dinner under the pretense of meeting their wives. The men proceeded to feed Rasputin drugged wine and watered with vodka, drugging him; but the man soon fell into a deep sleep. When that became evident, Yusupov and his friends beat him and finally wrapped him in a carpet and threw him into a river. The autopsy ruled drowning as the cause of death. Rasputin's relationship with Yusupov was key to the collapse of the Russian autocracy. Following Rasputin's death, the Russian Revolution brought an end to the Romanov dynasty in 1918.

Defining moment
Even after death Rasputin's influence brings an end to the imperial regime 1918

According to General Rasputin once submitted to Nicholas that if assassins ever murdered the holy man, it would mean the end of the Romanov dynasty. It also made a personal journey to Berlin. The influence of the Rasputin's family had the Romanov's family to his death. After abdicating the throne in 1917, the Tsar and his family were exiled to the fortress mountains for their protection. On 17 July 1918 the Rasputin family, including the last surviving Romanov who was murdered by Bolsheviks.
50 EVENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Ancient Greece to 9/11 - history's gamechangers revealed

Written by Adam Millward, Ben Biggs, Jonathan Hatfield
One Giant Leap for Mankind

The first Moon landing

There was no way the United States was going to lose the Space Race. Although Soviet Russia seemed one step ahead at every turn, with Sputnik, Yuri Gagarin, and Luna-2 - the first artificial satellite, the first man in space, and the first rocket to reach the Moon respectively - JFK told the American people on 25 May 1961 that the nation should “commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon, and returning him safely to the Earth.”

Using Saturn rockets and veterans of Projects Mercury and Gemini, the process of developing a safe rocket that could make the journey and a safe return began. However, in 1967, the test launch of Apollo 1 ended catastrophically on the launch pad when an electrical fire in the cabin caused the death of all three from asphyxiation before help could get to them. But each successful Apollo mission flight brought them closer to their goal: the Moon, testing everything from navigation systems, docking procedures and lunar suits.

Finally, on 16 July 1969 - within John F. Kennedy’s anticipated time frame - the Apollo 11 mission launched on board a Saturn V rocket, containing astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. It entered lunar orbit on 19 July, as Collins remained in the craft and Armstrong and Aldrin descended in the Lunar module Eagle. After fears that they had overshot their landing target, they set down on the Sea of Tranquility. Aldrin took communion while Armstrong prepared to activate the shuttle’s camera and step outside.

He descended the nine rungs to the Moon’s surface and broadcast to a captivated world the words that would echo throughout history, “That’s one small step for [a] man... one giant leap for mankind.” Indeed, while it would be an American flag that was planted on the Moon, and President Nixon who would make a phone call to the astronauts, it was a demonstration of how far the entire human race had come.
508 BCE
DAWN OF DEMOCRACY

The Athenians certainly couldn't imagine life without democracy. Athens was one of the most prosperous of some 1,500 city-states (polities) in 6th-century BCE Greece, initially governed by an elite ruling minority. Internal unrest and costly conflict with its neighbours, however, gradually brought the city to its knees. Taking inspiration from rival Sparta, with its unusual egalitarian ethos, democracy was seen as an experiment that could unify society.

Shaped by Solon, Cleisthenes and Pericles - and evolving over two centuries, every Athenian citizen was expected to get involved, though a randomly drawn, rotating council took care of day-to-day government. Forward thinking as it was, democracy was a totally different beast then - with women, foreigners and many others not represented. Nevertheless it laid the foundations for what is now a cornerstone of the modern world.

LEGACY

• The French Revolution saw the ruling monarchy overturned (1789-99)
• Lincoln's 'government of the people, by the people, for the people' speech (1863)
• World War I (1914-18)
• Nazi Germany during World War II (1939-45)
• The Vietnam War (1955-75)
• The Gulf Wars (1990-2011)
• September 11, 2001 (2001-2021)
• The Arab Spring (2010-12)
• The Syrian Civil War (2011-present)
• Brexit (2016-present)
• The Black Lives Matter movement (2020-present)

SEPTEMBER 2001
THE DAY AMERICA WAS ATTACKED

The terrorist attacks of 9/11

"The sights were mind-boggling. I thought for a second maybe we'd just been made..."

Mickey Kross was inside the Oval Office when he heard the news. He was the only one in the room when the World Trade Center's North Tower collapsed. For those of us witnessing that indelible footage, the world would never be the same. The world would never be the same.


The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were the catalyst for a new era in American history. The world would never be the same.

LEGACY

• September 11, 2001 (2001-2021)
• The War on Terror
• The 2008 Financial Crisis
• The Rise of Asia
• The 2016 US Presidential Election
• The Pandemic of 2020

50 EVENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

A project initiated by People's Post of 147 BCE, the Parthenon is often seen as an enduring symbol of Athenian democracy.

THE ATHENIANS certainly couldn't imagine life without democracy. Athens was one of the most prosperous of some 1,500 city-states (polities) in 6th-century BCE Greece, initially governed by an elite ruling minority. Internal unrest and costly conflict with its neighbours, however, gradually brought the city to its knees. Taking inspiration from rival Sparta, with its unusual egalitarian ethos, democracy was seen as an experiment that could unify society.
The assembly line was probably the greatest gift Henry Ford gave to the manufacturing industry. This production process brought the car to the engineers rather than the other way around. It halved the time it took to create his Model T Ford and dramatically cut costs.
50 events that changed the world

The five-day working week 1926
In May 1926, Detroit, Henry Ford instigated a second American revolution. He reduced the working week of Ford Motor Company's workers from six to five days and their working day from nine to eight hours. Productivity at Ford soared as a result of the new, two-day weekend, a practice so successful it was adopted worldwide and is standard today.

THE LAST ROMAN EMPEROR
476 CE
By the late fifth century, the Roman Empire was rapidly losing its millennia-long grip on Europe and the Western World. The Vandals and East German tribes had already sacked and pillaged Rome once and, seeing Rome's weakness, others were clamoring against their own Germanic overlords. Finally, in 476, the last emperor of Rome, Romulus Augustulus, was deposed.

THE FIRST DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY
31 March 1865
Three years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and with the Civil War still raging, Abraham Lincoln took a bold step and pushed for the 13th Amendment to be approved by Congress. Even without the Southern representatives, the vote barely made it through, but its success marked the start of a long fight for equality.

SLAVERY IS ABOLISHED
1865
A dangerous time to be a Christian, until the Emperor Constantine looked up from the Battle of Milvian Bridge and saw a flaming cross bearing the words "In this sign shalt thou conquer". Converted by this vision and his victory, Constantine's new faith began the Christianization of the Roman Empire.

ROME ADOPTS CHRISTIANITY
31 October 1492
An event for which we are still reaping the fruits: when the colonists arrived in the New World and brought their Christian beliefs with them. It marked the beginning of a new era for the Western world.

WOMEN GET THE VOTE
19th century
Suffrage groups across the Western world began to make their voices heard in the middle of the 19th century. But by the beginning of the 20th century, women were still not counted among the number of those eligible to vote. It took over 50 years after World War I and the tenacity of leading suffragists to get women the vote for the first time on both sides of the Atlantic.

BOSTON TEA PARTY
1773
The American colonists' patience with the British parliament was at an end. Why should they obey a law they had no voice in creating? When the Sons of Liberty in Boston threw three ships' loads of tea onto the harbor, the shocked British were set on a path to war.
On 6 June 1944, the Allied Troops under the direction of General Dwight D Eisenhower and Bernard Montgomery took the first step towards breaking Hitler's stranglehold on Europe with a massive assault on the French coast - the largest amphibious assault in history.

In the preceding months the Allies had mounted a decoy operation, Operation Fortitude, in an attempt to convince the Axis forces that they would attempt to cross at Pas de Calais, where the English Channel is narrowest. Meanwhile, Operation Overlord had been poised since 1 May. But favourable weather conditions were vital to the plan's success. After being postponed several times, Operation Overlord finally went into effect and the Allied forces set foot on Normandy beaches at 6.30am.

The troops taking part in the amphibious assault comprised 72,215 British and Canadian soldiers, and 37,500 Americans. They were divided over 80 kilometres (50 miles) of coastline. With its cliff-top bunkers, which had not suffered much damage from the preceding aerial bombardment, Omaha was the most heavily defended, and the attacking US forces took heavy casualties before taking the beach. However, the decoy had worked. The German military was not alerted that an invasion was occurring until 4am. The attack did not just come from the sea, however. After midnight on 6 June, American, British and Canadian paratroopers were dropped into Normandy to facilitate the attack at Utah, which would give the Allies access to Cherbourg, harbour. Due to the adverse weather conditions, many of the paratroopers missed their targets, but vital locations like Pegasus Bridge and the town of Sainte-Mère-Église would be captured.

At 6.00pm, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced the invasion in the House of Commons. By midnight, each of the five beaches had been taken and the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany was underway.

D-Day and the first step towards ending the Second World War.
COLUMBUS FINDS A NEW WORLD
12 OCTOBER 1492
Despite attempting to find an alternate route for the lucrative Indies, Columbus's journey across the Atlantic brought him to the Bahamas and on to Cuba. Although he wasn't the first European to set foot on the Americas, word spread about his discovery of a new continent across the ocean.

THE COMPASS IS INVENTED
117
The first magnetic compasses, thought to have appeared in China during the Qin Dynasty, were not used for exploration, but rather for geomantic divination and feng shui. The magnetic compass continued to develop in China until its first recorded use for navigation in 1117, and was used by European sailors soon after, revolutionising navigation and opening the oceans to exploration.

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE FALLS
334-330 BCE
In roughly three years, Alexander the Great brought about the fall of the 200 year-old Persian Empire. Challenging Darius III's superior numbers in 334 BCE, Alexander won successive victories until his opponent fled from the battlefield at Gaugamela in 331 BCE. Persia's surrender ended one of the most formidable empires.

START OF THE CRUSADES
1096
Launched by the Catholic church by Pope Urban II in 1095, the first crusade to take the holy lands of Islam was originally to help the Byzantines repel the warring Turks, but soon evolved into a holy war to take back Jerusalem. The successful campaign was the first of many holy crusades that transformed the Middle East.

“Workers of the world, unite!” 1848
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' Communist Manifesto is one of the most influential (and most quoted) political manuscripts. Its ethos of power to the working class has been the mandate of many coups since it was first published by German political refugees in London.

THE END OF THE AZTECS
1521
Having landed in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico in 1519, the Spanish discovered a wealthy native people known as the Aztecs, expanding their control beyond Mexico. That ground to a halt with an invasion led by Hernando Cortés. The Aztec population was devastated by new diseases like smallpox and were overtaken by the better armed invaders.
1983

INVENTING THE WORLD WIDE WEB

It's hard to imagine life without the Internet today, but it wouldn't exist if not for one man's vision.

It's not as if technology that combined hypertext and the internet wasn't around in 1989. But British pioneer Tim Berners-Lee wanted to take it to another level. When Berners-Lee first proposed the World Wide Web for users at CERN to re-embark on their research, his supervisor Mike Sendall wasn't very enthusiastic, but the idea caught on.

Collaborating with computer scientist Robert Cailliau, the prototype software for the basic web system was demonstrated in 1990 on a NeXT computer, and it rapidly spread to other research labs and universities around the globe. With the development of web browsers to access the ubiquitous CERN and INRA environments, the World Wide Web was ready to make the leap from academia to everyday life.

On 30 April 1991, CERN posted the source code for anyone to use. Over the following years, the web grew from websites and educational content to a powerful tool for e-commerce and communication.

Origins
- Tim Berners-Lee invents hypertext, 1989
- ARPANET goes live 29 October 1969
- Ray Tomlinson sends the first email 9 October 1971

Legacy
- The dawn of social networking
- Mass-driven journalism
- Gangnam Style hits 1 billion YouTube views

THE FIRST GOLD COINS ARE MINTED

Although gold had already been used as a currency for centuries before, the first gold coins were struck in the seventh century BCE. The first proper gold coins were minted by King Croesus of the Lydians (modern-day Turkey). This rich nation used its pure gold currency as a statement of wealth and power.

WATT PERFECTS THE STEAM ENGINE

The steam engine, invented by James Watt, did so much more than drive steam trains across the country. It kick-started the Industrial Revolution so that factories could be built anywhere, not just near rivers, and steam-driven machines could do the job of dozens of workers in a fraction of the time.

JFK IS ASSASSINATED

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas, Texas, and the world was shaken by his death. The event had far-reaching consequences, fueling a wave of conspiracy theories and changing the course of American politics.

LENIN SEIZES POWER

On November 7, 1917, the Bolsheviks took power in Russia, marking the beginning of the Soviet Union. This event had profound implications for the world, leading to the Cold War and shaping modern geopolitics.

THE TENNIS COURT OATH

On May 20, 1789, the Tennis Court Oath was taken by the National Assembly of nobles, clergy, and common people at the Palace of Versailles. They swore to convene a new French constitution, thus sowing the seeds of the French Revolution.
Apartheid ends in South Africa 1994

Apartheid (the state of being apart) was legislated in 1948 in South Africa, with four racial groups classified and forced into segregation. After trade embargoes in the Eighties and growing civil unrest, its gradual breakdown culminated in Nelson Mandela's victorious abolition of the internationally hated regime.

LENIN DIES

Lenin was bedridden and mute. Suffering three strokes by the time of his death. While Trotsky seemed to be the natural successor, he was efficiently sidelined and subsequently expelled by Stalin, paving the way for one of history's most appalling dictators.

DARWIN TAKES AN OCEAN VOYAGE

Charles Darwin's discovery on his voyage to South America in HMS Beagle would forever change our understanding of the world around us. Forming the idea that one species could change into another, he began work on his theory of natural selection and published On The Origin Of The Species on 24 November 1859.

WRITING IS INVENTED

Writing sprang out of a need to keep records at a time when memory proved insufficient. It was invented in central and South America in the seventh century BC and Mesopotamia in modern Iraq in 3300 BCE. True writing is distinct from early scribing by symbols and the use of digits to keep records.

TELEVISION IS DEMONSTRATED

Although the television wasn't the creation of a single inventor, John Logie Baird contributed two major improvements to its display and was the first to transmit an image: a flickering greyscale photograph reproduced just a few feet away from the source. He went on to demonstrate live moving images in 1926 and the TV was born.
9000 BCE

**AGRICULTURE ARRIVES**

The human race takes the first step away from hunter-gatherer culture and begins to settle down.

Increasing proliferation of this vegetation made settlement an attractive proposition. However, steps would have to be taken to ensure they did not drain the area of resources.

Opinion differs as to whether the decision to try rearing crops was premeditated, and many believe that it was a one-off experimentation rather than a strategy designed to provide them with a regular form of sustenance. However, the combination of climate change and increasingly settled populations meant that this dabbling with crop development was inevitable. The technology began to improve and these tribes began to rear livestock, which similarly thrived in the Levant region, and needed to renewable crops. The nomadic culture by which the human race lived would forever be altered. The first step towards human society as we know it today, with its vast towns and cities, all started with agriculture.

**Origins**
- Circa 10,000 BCE: Climatic change and edible plants
- Circa 9000 BCE: sheet leaves and sedentary life
- Circa 8500 BCE: Increase in domesticated animals

**Legacy**
- Irrigation and evolving agricultural technology
- Modern grains and domesticated livestock
- Intensive farming leading to climate change

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**4 JULY 1776**

**A SUPERPOWER IS BORN**

The Declaration of Independence, all began with a single document.

A 2011 survey showed 86 percent of Americans favored Queen Elizabeth II. Had the poll been taken 237 years ago, the results would have been different.

In early 1776, a political pamphlet titled Common Sense was circulating the colonies. Its author, Thomas Paine, didn’t pull any punches when it came to his views on King George III: “How impious is the title of sacred Majesty applied to a worm, who in the midst of his splendor is crumbling to dust.”

A few months on, Thomas Jefferson penned a more formal statement, calling for a break from Britain. Adopted by a majority in Congress on 4 July, and agreed by all 13 colonies, it sparked a New York riot, during which the statue of George III was toppled. The final engrossed declaration wasn’t signed until 2 August, but America continues to celebrate the day it first voted for ‘Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness’ at the Second Continental Congress.

There are thought to be 26 surviving copies of the original Declaration in existence today, 21 owned by various US institutions. One was even found in the British National Archives in 2009.
The Sun becomes the centre of the solar system 1543
After years of fearing controversy, Copernicus decided to finally publish his theory of heliocentrism in the last year of his life. His theory that the Earth revolves around the Sun, took more than a century to be accepted, and Galileo was tried by the Inquisition for heresy in 1663 after agreeing to it.

TELEPHONE IS INVENTED
1876
The telephone is one of the most important inventions of the modern era, which makes the story behind its invention all the more controversial. Alexander Graham Bell was officially credited as the inventor because he got his patent eight months before a strikingly similar patent by Elisha Gray, but some believe he stole a critical line from Gray's patent to get his approved first. Either way, Bell is widely regarded as its inventor.

THE FIRST OLYMPICS
776
In honour of Zeus, father of all the gods and men, the ancient Greeks held the first Olympic Games at the sanctuary of Zeus in Olympia. Only Greek men could enter. There were far fewer events than there are today and many participants completely naked. They were held every four years until 394 CE, when the Romans banned them for years in their campaign of Christianity.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS LAND
November 1620
The Puritan Pilgrim Fathers believed that Satan’s grip on England was strengthening. So they set sail on the Mayflower for Virginia to create a new community. They landed near Cape Cod after being blown off course after 65 days at sea, and founded the historic Plymouth Colony on the site of a deserted Native American settlement.

THE TET OFFENSIVE LAUNCHES
January 1968
The tide of the war in Vietnam was irreversibly turned when the North Vietnamese forces mounted the multi-pronged, well-planned Tet offensive beginning with five separate assaults. Although the first phase was repelled, it was a death blow to America’s already diminishing confidence in their ability to win the war.
1905

THE LAWS OF PHYSICS REWRITTEN

"Politics is for the present, but an equation is something for eternity"

Part of Albert Einstein's special theory of relativity, published in 1905, "E=mc²" is by far his most well-known legacy. Despite its straightforward appearance, it deals with the complex and unchangeable relationship between mass and energy. The equation was born from a discrepancy between the work of earlier physicists like Isaac Newton, Galileo, and James-Clark Maxwell and unparalleled why the speed of light is constant, as well as the concept of space-time. Einstein completely blew apart the once widely accepted notion of a clockwork universe.

E=mc² was preceded by several other groundbreaking papers and the clerk-turned-scientific-superstar then went on to dominate many other physics explorations, including general relativity in 1916. While universally lauded as one of the greatest minds in human history, he remained humble: "I remain a curious, special relativity, passionately curious," he said.

1965

BENZ INVENTS THE CAR

German engineer Karl Benz is credited as the creator of the first petrol powered automobile. However, the Benz Patent Motorwagen was more of a bicycle with the added part of his invention - his patented two-stroke petrol engine - attached to it.

1990

Mandela is freed

Having just avoided execution, Nelson Mandela was tried by the South African government for sabotage, treason and violent conspiracy in 1964 and sentenced to life imprisonment. He served over 25 years of his sentence and was released in a dramatically different political environment. He went on to become leader of the ANC and abolished apartheid in 1994.
Ancient Rome had a problem with crime. Robberies were common, so was violence, and robbing. Merchants cheated their customers. Desperate slaves escaped regularly and lived out their days in their hiding places beneath the city. At the top level of society, the wealthy and aristocratic were often embroiled in secret conspiracies to gain power and profit. Beneath the streets of Ancient Rome lurked some of the city's most dangerous criminals. The Catacombs, a network of tunnels and caves under the city, were home to escaped slaves and outlawed gladiators that used the underground labyrinth as a hiding place. Dark and damp, riddled with vermin, claustrophobic, small air pockets and stacked with the corpses of previous inhabitants, the Catacombs were not a place where people would want to stay. Escaped slaves would want to move on from there.
The underworld of ancient Rome

THE WORLD UNDER ANcient ROME
A place of rest and sanctuary.

Obscure symbols helped other criminals to navigate the Catacombs, showing them which path to follow under the dark, stinking labyrinth.

as soon as they could, and not just because of the grim commitments. In 71 BCE Romette identified an escaped gladiator called Spartacus who was widely believed to be the ringleader of a group of escaped slaves. His group had caused the Third Servile War, which lasted for two years and resulted in Rome passing even harsher sentences against escaped slaves. Not wanting to be caught, slaves used the Catacombs as a temporary hiding place on their way out of Rome.

It was the religious cults that tended to stay in the underworld of the Catacombs. Romans were usually quite open-minded about gods who weren't their own, but some religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Mithraism—followed dangerous ideologies. Mithraism was a cult that focused on rituals withubrine magic, and it was rumored that they would murder those who refused to participate. In 186 BCE, a law was passed against Mithraism.

Jews and Christians, meanwhile, were criminalized in ancient Rome because they believed that there was only one god. During the Roman Republic, with its pantheon of gods, this was frowned upon, but by the time Rome became an empire it was an active threat to national security. Rome's last dictator, Julius Caesar, was deified when he died, but his heir Augustus inherited the title. Domitian, son of a god, Judaism and Christianity threatened the role of the emperor, and their followers fled underground.

There's remains evidence in the Catacombs of the belief that these people lived. Often they would carve or paint their religious symbols onto the walls: Jews often painted images of themselves performing the rites; or of the menorah—the seven-branched candelabrum that is often used to represent their faith. Christians were different, knowing that they were the most hated religious criminals and that Rome's not police would sometimes pursue them even as far as the Catacombs: the Christians used a range of cryptic
The underworld of ancient Rome

One law for one...
The free Roman citizen

A free citizen of Rome, if caught stealing or coveting, was sent to court and made to pay a fine of twice to four times the value of what he had taken. If he had committed a particularly serious crime, such as adultery, libel, or counterfeiting money or documents, he could be burned alive as a public spectacle for the rest of his life. He would only be sentenced to death for very serious kinds of murder or treason, and could be offered a private avenger instead of a public one. His legal protector in court had to be someone else of the same rank.

The non-citizen underclass

A member of the Roman underclass—"a poor, non-citizen "plebeian"—could expect stricter penalties and punishments than a free citizen. If caught in the act of robbing someone at night, he could face execution sometimes on the spot. However, if he was arrested after the crime, or for anything apart from night-robbing or murder, he could argue his case in court. His legal protector in court could be anyone who cared.

"Ancient Rome had its own versions of our cheap designer fakes, payday loan scams and food scares"
The underworld of ancient Rome

Lawyerling-up in Ancient Rome

Defence in the Roman courts

Like all great criminals, Roman officials took their legal rights seriously. Clearly, Roman law was sometimes said to have had a few lawyers in the world and they were available to free citizens and to any non-citizen of the underworld who hadn't committed a capital crime. During a court case, in front of the local praetor (judge), a lawyer could represent his client and argue on his behalf. A lawyer's main function was to either prove his client not guilty or to reduce the penalty or punishment for his client's crime. However, as Roman lawyers were not paid equally some served the wealthy publican families and were rich and high-class themselves. It was the stylish clothes that the tailor's sons, who were often just average citizens and non-citizens, had no access to. The lawyers, who were from the upper class, were able to meet a trained legal defence in court - but their lawyers were generally almost as poor and hungry as the people they were defending.

that could be employed to get their members out of trouble. Adultery, for example, was the nearest thing that ancient Rome had to the Mafia and they operated on much the same principle - keep together, stay quiet, and make money. Thanks to the organisation of these guilds, even if a criminal was caught, he could expect to be able to employ a decent lawyer and get away with a fine or possibly banishment. If the worst happened and the time he had to pay reduced him to complete bankruptcy, he could be forced into slavery to pay off his debts.

Crime didn't stop when it reached the upper echelons of the city either. In fact, the high-class villas of the elite were a hotbed of different types of criminal activity. Robberies of the patrician class had become more frequent. They were drawn to the world of inherited wealth that the lower classes envied and the middle classes aspired to. Their taxes were very different from the general population, and so were their crimes. This was especially true during the transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire where owners became one of the wealthiest romans were tax exempt. The crimes that are most familiar to us today among the Roman upper classes are those of the potli and assassinations that were used to maintain the order of the later Empire. We often think of the Roman upper classes as a haven of Seneca and philosophy - and indeed many of the most famous thinkers and authors came from the lower classes and were forced into slavery to pay off their debts. But, however, wasn't simply limited to planning or assassinisation; it was anything that threatened Rome as a whole. The idea of the literal city was perhaps more important than the people who lived in it.

Upper-class Romans were just as much at risk of being required by the teachemous new religion of Christianity as the plebeians. Among the elite, there was always the danger that some bright political or politician might think he could do a better job of ruling the city and its attendant Empire than the current establishment. Some of the worst upper-class Roman crimes included poisoning babies in the army and public; Patricide meant killing your father or the patriarchs of your family. While this was a shocking crime in all strata of Roman society, it was worse in the patriarchal class. The head of the household symbolised a link to the divine, a symbol of leadership, authority and the established order. To violate that was to violate the principles of the Roman Empire. Adultery also became a crime among the ruling elite because it threatened the family system of inheritance.

Crime was a significant problem for the population of ancient Rome from all walks of life. And while the crimes and their punishments all varied in severity, execution and motivation, when it came down to it they all revolved around the same needs and wants: more money, more control, more power.
**ROMAN PUNISHMENTS**

**CRUCIFIXION**
Hung from a cross and left to die
- The criminal was tied or nailed to a cross and left to die from starvation due to his heavy body weight. Used for slaves, pirates, Christians, and others.

**CULEUS**
Sewn into a sack and drowned
- This severe punishment for patricians saw the criminal sewn into a sack and thrown into the river or sea. In later variants, a live dog and chickens were included, and sometimes even an iron band was added in two.

**A FINE**
Up to four times the value
- For low-level and non-violent crimes, the most common punishment for a Roman citizen was a fine.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**
Public beating
- Non-citizens could expect more severe punishments for low-level crimes, such as a public beating usually with a whip.

**THE ARENA**
Gladiators for entertainment
- Slaves could be sentenced to the arena to serve as gladiators. Thieves who fought in the death matches for the entertainment of the Roman public.

**ENSLAVEMENT**
For inability to pay
- Enslavement was for those who couldn't pay some or all of their victim's compensation could be enslaved by the victim.

**BANISHMENT**
Few years to the rest of their life
- Upper-class Roman criminals were generally banished apart from in the very worst cases. Punishments could last from a few years to life and deprived the criminals of their assets and powers.

**DAMNATIO AD BESTIAS**
Served to animals as food
- Some of the worst criminals were put into the public arena with a group of lions to be killed and eaten by them.

**THE UNDERWORLD OF ANCIENT ROME**
- Illustration of the underworld with various punishments depicted.
THE GREAT LAND TO THE SOUTH

HOW THE WORLD DISCOVERED AUSTRALIA

The promise of a great southern land captivated sailors, pirates, merchants, kings and even popes. We discovered the southern terrestrial bodies through the ages, with discoveries spanning centuries and cultures.
The dream of Australia dominated European exploration of Asia for 400 years, and had been a myth of Atlantean proportions much longer.
Only Cook's courage and cool leadership averted complete disaster on his voyage up Australia's east coast.

**Australia's discovery of the world**

While European explorers tackled the north, Australia's nearer neighbours had already reached out for the great southern land, and it had reached back.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, possibly as early as the 15th century, the Makassans appeared from the south, trading from boats of sail and oar. The Makassans, who had already reached the coast, traded salt, sugar, and spices for Chinese cloth, porcelain, and other goods. They also traded with the indigenous peoples of Australia, especially the Aborigines, who were known to have lived in the region for at least 60,000 years.

In the 16th century, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) began to explore the coast of New Guinea on behalf of the Dutch. In 1606, Captain Willem Janszoon, for whom the Janszoon Islands are named, became the first recorded European to set foot on Australian soil. He thought it was the southern continuation of the east coast of Australia, which he named New Holland. However, he was unable to convince his crew to continue south, and he returned to the East Indies.

The area of Australia known as the Great Land to the South was explored by various European nations, including the French, Spanish, and English, who were all seeking a southern route to the Spice Islands. The English explorer James Cook made several voyages to the Pacific, including one in 1770, during which he became the first European to sight and map the eastern coast of Australia. Cook's voyages were significant in terms of mapping and exploration, and they laid the foundation for future European settlement and expansion in the region.

Cook's explorations were not without controversy, however. His treatment of the local people was brutal, and he was ultimately killed by a Native American warrior. Despite this, Cook's voyages opened up a new era of exploration and settlement in the region, and they laid the foundation for modern Australia.
Aboriginal sealers used dugout canoes.
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A day is a long time in politics, so the old saying goes. Policy can be formulated, speeches can be made, ideals can be realised. You can even, when the time is right, kill a President.

Written by Rob Jones

On 9 April 1865, one of the most brutal and fiercely contested civil wars in the Earth has come to an end. In a small, nondescript courthouse in Virginia, General Robert E. Lee, leader of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, was meeting with General Ulysses S. Grant, the commander of the Union Army, to sign papers of surrender. The American Civil War between the United States of the North and the Confederate States of America was officially over. Four years of blood, destruction and wildly differing ideologies of how the newly colonised landmass of North America should be modelled were over. The Confederacy had collapsed; the infrastructure of its southern states lay in ruins. After signing the papers, Lee left Appomattox Courthouse and made his way to the White House. The war was over and he was about to become President of Washington College in Maury, Virginia. In contrast, Grant began his journey to Washington, the news of his victory advancing faster than any steam locomotive.

At 7am on Friday, 14 April 1865, Abraham Lincoln awoke to a glorious spring day. The weather echoed his desire that a brand new future could emerge from the darkness that had preceded it. Rising promptly and then proceeding to his room in the White House, Lincoln sat behind his large mahogany desk and proceeded to work. His workload was large. Affairs of state were both chaotic and pressing following the recent surrender of the Confederacy, with the rebuilding of the (now broken) nation top priority. After spending around half an hour attending to his paperwork, Lincoln reached for a nearby bell and pulled it to summon a personal secretary. Moments later the secretary entered the office and Lincoln relayed instructions that the Assistant Secretary of State, Frederick Seward, should call a cabinet meeting at 11:00am. Little did Lincoln know that, across the American capital, events were transpiring that would lead to this meeting being the last one that he ever chaired.

After working for another short period, Lincoln left the office and proceeded to have breakfast with his family. Sitting around the breakfast table, Lincoln was joined by his wife Mary Todd Lincoln and sons Robert and Tad Lincoln. While eating, Lincoln listened to his son Robert's account of General Robert E. Lee's surrender at the Appomattox Courthouse.
“After spending most of his morning attending to national affairs, he still found time to resolve citizens’ issues”
Our American Cousin

Among the horrific events of 14 April 1865, one thing tends to be overlooked: the actual play that Lincoln was attending. The play entitled Our American Cousin is a three-act affair with an English playwright, Tom T. Taylor, who penned the play in 1859, seven years prior to Lincoln's assassination. During this period the play received much critical and commercial success, touring America's theatres with a varied cast containing some of the best-known actors of the day.

Our American Cousin is a classic farce that traces the return to England of an honest and ignorant American named Asa Trenchard and his old family estate. Due to Trenchard's lack of understanding of English aristocratic ball and manners, as well as his own rustic ways - in one scene, after being introduced to a shower for the first time he proceeds to shower fully clothed - much hilarious gags, culminating in a series of misunderstandings between the cast.

Famously, in Act I Scene 2 of the play, Asa delivers what is considered the funniest line of the play to Miss Moundsh программы, a young socialite, in which he calls her a "dumb little woman" and "not a fit to enter the land of ladies," in fact, he himself is rather rude and vulgar. He says: "I know the manners of good society, eh? Well, I guess I'm not good enough to turn you inside out, old girl."

Sociologist George Mead of the University of Chicago, a social worker in the 19th century, wrote in his book "Mind, Self, and Society" that the role of Asa Trenchard is a "standing image" of an "uneducated man's release of 'dumbness,' the trappings of 'giving,' and praise." Certainly, Asa is hardly granting Moundsho-Duffer praise, but the two are conversing in this scene. It was Woodbridge Asa, the daughter of the famous line that Booth entered Lincoln's box. Familiar with the play, he hoped the daughter would make the sound of his gunshot.

Robert Lincoln was a Captain in the Union Army and was present when the papers were signed. While Mary had tickets to go to Grover's Theatre, that evening, she wished to go and see the much-celebrated farce Our American Cousin. While watching the theatre, she wanted to see the play with Union army General and war hero, General Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, and she requested Lincoln to send an invitation. It was a pivotal moment in the history of one of the greatest events that the United States had ever seen - it was a moment in time, a snapshot into the chaos of cause and effect. How could the Lincoln's have known what visiting Ford's Theatre instead of Grover's would lead to?

After breaking up with Colfax, Lincoln proceeded into the Cabinet Office and received his first official appointment of the day, Speaker of the House of Representatives Schuyler Colfax. Colfax had come to talk to Lincoln about his intended future policy towards the (now surrendered) pro-Confederate states, to which Lincoln held the view that they should be an active participant in any rebuilding effort and they should not be heavily penalised for their part in the war. After speaking with Colfax, Lincoln received New Hampshire Senator John P. Hale, whose daughter Lucy Hale, had recently come into the spotlight by becoming the fiancée of former President Millard Fillmore's son, William Fillmore. Lincoln spoke to Hale about his new role as minister to Spain and after concluding their meeting sent for a soup and informed him to reserve the State Box at Ford's Theatre.

At 10am Lincoln proceeded into the Cabinet Office and began the scheduled meeting of the cabinet. On the agenda were two primary issues - the reconstruction of the country, and how to approach the reconciliation of the northern and southern states. Discussion between the cabinet members, which included General Grant and Lincoln's Vice-President, Andrew Johnson, led to many differing opinions being expressed. However, by the close of the meeting at approximately 2:00pm, the men were in agreement. The southern states would be supported financially during the reconstruction and the leaders of the Confederacy were not be

"How could the Lincoln's have known what visiting Ford's Theatre instead of Grover's would lead to?"
punished further. As the meeting drew to a close, General Grant approached Lincoln and informed him that, unfortunately, he and his wife could not attend the American Club that evening as they were travelling out of Washington via train to see their children.

At 2.00pm Lincoln left the cabinet office and proceeded through the White House to have lunch with Mary. Informing her of General Grant’s decline of their invitation, it was agreed that Edwin Stanton and his wife would be invited. Following lunch, which lasted till 3.00pm, Lincoln finally met with Vice-President Andrew Johnson, who had arrived to see Lincoln late while the cabinet meeting was in effect. The President and Vice-President spoke for 20 minutes, discussing recent events and the outcomes of the meeting that Johnson had missed. After Johnson left, Lincoln undertook the last official engagement of his working day, meeting with a former slave named Nancy Hughey. The meeting was about Nancy’s husband, who had served in the Union Army but had not been paid for the last few months. Lincoln promised that he would resolve the matter.

After spending most of the morning attending to affairs that concerned the entire nation, he still found time to meet with and resolve one citizen’s issues.

As the meeting with Nancy concluded, a messenger arrived at the White House stating that the Stantons had declined the offer to attend the theatre with Lincoln that evening. He met with Mary and informed her of the news and, with his day’s work concluded at 4pm, decided to go out with her on a carriage ride. The ride, which took the pair down to the Washington Naval Yard and back, lasted until 9pm.

The life of Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born on 12 February 1809 in Hardin County, Kentucky to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. His mother died as an infant. After a land dispute, the Lincolns were forced to move to Perry County, Indiana in 1817 and spend much time farming. From the age of nine, his mother died of milk sickness.

After the family again migrated, this time to Illinois in 1818, Lincoln started to make a living as a surveyor and lawyer. In 1837 he was admitted to the bar and became a lawyer practicing across Illinois until the mid-1840s. In 1842 he married Mary Todd, with whom he had four children (though only one, Robert, survived into adulthood). He entered politics briefly in 1847 as a Whig and was elected to the House of Representatives but returned to law in 1849.

It was not until 1856 that Lincoln would again become involved in politics, joining the newly formed Republican Party. After unsuccessfully running for the Senate, Lincoln was nominated as the Republican candidate for the presidency in May 1860 and in November of that year he was elected as the 16th President of the United States.

Prior to Lincoln’s inauguration in March 1861, several Southern states had begun to secede from the Union. Following an attack by the South on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, Lincoln was forced to lead the North into the American Civil War with the South. After a six-month military campaign, Lincoln was re-elected in 1864. His goal to ensure the country was reunited when he was assassinated, but his legacy as one of America’s greatest leaders will forever be remembered.
back by train took approximately two hours, with the Lincoln's arrival back at the White House at 6pm. A pair of old friends met them as they arrived back and Lincoln proceeded to invite them into his office for a catch-up. Shortly after, however, Lincoln received notification that the family meal was ready. After saying goodbye to his friends, he proceeded with his family to the dining room. It was a dinner that Mary informed us that they had finally received an acceptance to attend the theatre, with Major Henry Rathbone and his partner Clara Harris accepting.

After finishing their meal, Mary returned to her room to get ready for the theatre, while Lincoln was unexpectedly called on by former Congressman George Ashmun. Ashmun had no appointment but Lincoln met with him anyway. By 8:30 pm, Lincoln was still in conversation with Ashmun and, fearing he would arrive too late to the show, requested the meeting be recommenced at 9am the following morning. Lincoln quickly penned a note saying that Ashmun was to be allowed entry the following morning and then proceeded to leave the White House in a waiting carriage.

The carriage proceeded down the gravel drive of the White House and then continued toward town. After swinging by 712 Jackson Place in Lafayette Square to pick up Major Rathbone and Mrs.__ Ashmun in the carriage then rode directly to Ford's Theatre. The President and his Secretary of State then went to see a play.

“Stepping late into the President’s box, the show was halted, Hail to the Chief was played by the orchestra, and then over a thousand theatre goers applauded the great man and his, now, realized beyond doubt, ideology that America would be reborn anew, greater and stronger than ever before. Taking their seats once more after the President and his entourage were seated, the audience remained unaware that a drama of far greater significance than anything a comic farce could conjure was about to play out dramatically before their very eyes.

"Stepping late into the President’s box, the show was halted, Hail to the Chief was played by the orchestra"
NEXT ISSUE
All About History is back next month, don’t miss it

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How John Wilkes Booth plotted to bring down an entire nation

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The major civilizations that conquered the known world

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10 SECRET MISSIONS OF WORLD WAR II

ESPIONAGE AND SABOTAGE THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF WORLD WAR II

Written by Mick Jones
W

World War II was shaped by some of the greatest battles in human history. Fought by millions of soldiers in theaters all around the globe, it was a war fought on an unprecedented scale.

But WWII wasn’t just fought by soldiers and their industrial war machines. It also saw the emergence of a new type of warfare carried out by a new type of soldier: covert missions and secret operations designed to strike targets deep behind enemy lines.

These missions were just as important as the epic battles the objectives successfully completed or not—would swing the war one way or the other, and would have massive ramifications for its ultimate outcome.

They were fought by the brave few in the most dangerous and perilous situations. As Adolf Hitler’s policy of capturing all captured enemy commandos meant that those who surrendered would pay the ultimate price.

Many of today’s famous covert organizations can trace their roots back to WWII. The British Secret Service—formed by Winston Churchill in the United States Office of Strategic Services—would later become the CIA, while the SAS (arguably the most famous Special Forces outfit of them all) was formed in the North African desert in 1941.

WWII wasn’t just fought by the soldiers, though everyone had their part to play: from civilians to scientists, and some of the most important secret missions of the war were undertaken and won by your average Joe. As you’ll see, even a dead man played a crucial role in saving thousands of Allied lives in the war against the Nazis.

This feature will examine the most dangerous secret missions undertaken carried out by the bravest and smartest of soldiers, the men and women with the right stuff that helped decide the greatest conflict in human history through espionage, audacity, and courage.
**OPERATION PASTORIUS**

Nazis invade the US mainland

**Date:** May-June 1942

**Objective:** To sabotage key economic targets and hinder the US war effort. Targets included the hydroelectric plants at Niagara Falls, Pennsylvania Station in Newark and aluminium plants in Illinois.

**Belligerents:**
- Nazi secret agents: FBI
- Theatre: United States mainland

On 25 May 1942, two Nazi U-boats set sail for the United States. Their destinations were Long Island and Port Chester Beach, Florida. Each carried four Nazi agents, their mission: to bomb vital US manufacturing infrastructure. Two of them were Americans citizens named Ernst Buscher and Herbert Haupt. The other six agents, while German, had all worked in the US before the war. They brought with them explosives, detonators and about $175,000 in currency, and the campaign was to last two years.

Two of the agents, Buscher and George John Lehle, decided to defect as soon as they were ashore. Buscher headed to Washington DC, where he turned himself in to the FBI who, at first, dismissed him as crazy. Buscher's response was to throw his own $84,000 budget on the desk. He was promptly taken into custody and interrogated.

In the following weeks, the other agents were all arrested and put on trial. All eight agents, including Buscher and Burger, were sentenced to death by electric chair. It was at this point that President Roosevelt stepped in and commuted Buscher and Burger's sentences to 30 years and life respectively. The remaining agents were executed in a US jail. After the war, Roosevelt granted clemency to Buscher and Burger under the condition that they return to Germany.

**Outcome:** With not a single target hit, Operation Pastorius was a complete failure for the Nazis. It didn't work out too well for the agents either, only two survived, and only then after the intervention of President Roosevelt.

**FAILURE**
THE TIZARD MISSION
Churchill's love letter to America

Date: September 1940
Objective: Scientific and technical cooperation with the United States in order to maintain its aid to Britain
Belligerents: Henry Tizard, members of the British army and scientific community
Theater: United States mainland

Not every secret mission conducted during the war needed to be as high profile as Tizard's. Yet the importance of the documents and prototypes that were carried in a case made by their American allies is not to be understated.

Once the mission was approved, the documents and prototypes were delivered to the relevant authorities in the United States. They, along with the most advanced aircraft and weaponry that the world had ever seen, would go on to revolutionize the military landscape. Frank Whittle's designs for the first ever jet engine paved the way for a new era of aviation and, perhaps most importantly, something called a magnetron, which would be a key component in radar and continue to play a crucial role in today's military operations.

Case study: Wonders of the World, the path that generates the most interest

So precious were the documents and prototypes that they were carried in a case that was designed to withstand the most challenging conditions. It was a symbol of the importance of the mission and a testament to the strength of the bond between Britain and America.

The mission was a short-term success. The US indeed came to Britain's aid. Long-term, though, Britain paid the price, and with the Tizard tech, the US military was able to maintain a mightier position in aviation, and has never looked back.

Mind you, you can't really blame Churchill for giving it a try when the Luftwaffe and German Navy threatened invasion on a daily basis.

Outcome: While the mission was a success, the secret technology provided a huge boost to the American aviation and electronics industries in the post-war period. By contrast, Britain's industry waned.

SUCCESS
The cockleshell heroes

OPERATION FRANKTON

Date: 7-12 December 1942
Objective: Plant limpet mines on German cargo ships moored in Bordeaux, sink the ships, escape to Spain
Belligerents: Royal Marines, German Navy
Theater: Europe

The Bay of Biscay, 1942. A British submarine surfaces some miles from the Gironde estuary. Five canoes entered the water, each containing two Royal Marines and a cargo of limpet mines. They set off for Bordeaux, their target German cargo ships moored as part of their defenses. Between them and their goal, two naval trawlers, 12 K boats, 12 patrol boats, six M class mine sweepers, the German army and over 50 miles of rough seas and tidal waters. Chances of success? Nearly zero.

In September that year, the British had identified Bordeaux as a key target. The French port was a vital cog in the Nazi war machine, as the destination for many essential raw materials that kept the German army on the move. So on 7 December, a special Royal Marine unit set out to sink as many cargo ships as they could and then, assuming they survived the task, escape through the Pyrenees to Spain and then home to Britain.

Things didn't start out so well. On the first night two canoes were lost at sea. Then, on the morning of 8 December, the crew of the Catfish were captured by Germans. This left just two canoes to complete the attack.

By 11 December, they reached Bordeaux and were ready for the attack. The Catfish took to the western bank, while the Grayfish went south. In all they attached limpet mines to eight ships, continued down river and made their escape.

Outcome:
The mission was a resounding and miraculous success. Churchill said that the mission shortened the war by six months.

OPERATION FLIPPER

Exterminate the Desert Fox

Date: 10-18 November 1941
Objective: Assassinate Field Marshal Erwin Rommel
Belligerents: British Commandos, Afrika Korps
Theater: North Africa

North Africa, winter 1941. Rommel's forces had the British 8th Army pinned in the siege of Tobruk and were threatening to take Egypt. While there were plans in place to turn this situation around, Churchill saw an opportunity to use his Commandos to carry out an audacious plan to assassinate Rommel.

Rommel's HQ was believed to be at Bedia Littoria in a villa 29 kilometres (18 miles) from Apollonia, Libya. On 10 November, 10 commandos boarded two RN submarines. Their destination would be a beach 400 kilometres (250 miles) inland. Things didn't start too well. Only 36 made ashore due to poor weather, but this wasn't going to stop the Commandos. They improvised, splitting up into three teams and each taking a different target. These included communications facilities and Rommel himself.

The team made it to the villa, but were fought off by German troops and lost their commanding officer, Lt Col Geoffrey Keynes. Although one of the Commandos managed to get to Rommel's point, the bad weather made it impossible for them to re-embark on the submarines. Only two commandos made it home after a lengthy trek through the desert.

Outcome:
The mission was a total failure. Although Rommel was said to have remarked, "It was a brilliant operation and carried out with great audacity,"...
MISSION UNKNOWN

USS Indianapolis delivers the atomic bomb

Date: July 1945
Objective: Delivery of the Little Boy atomic bomb to the US Air Force
Belligerents: US Navy; Imperial Japanese Navy
Theater: The Pacific

30 July 1945. A lone cruiser is steaming its way from Guam to the Philippines. Suddenly two explosions rip through the ship's bow. She begins to list, rolls over and sinks without a trace. In just 12 minutes she is gone.

Just days before, the Portland class cruiser USS Indianapolis had performed arguably the most important mission of the Pacific War to date. She had delivered vital parts for the Little Boy atomic bomb, including the exploding part, Uranium-235. In fact, the Little Boy bomb had required about half of the world's supply of this precious resource.

Her destination was the US base on the island of Tinian. Once delivery had been completed, she had received new orders: to rendezvous with the USS Idaho at Leyte in the Philippines. That was when the Japanese subs found her.

Unbeknownst to the Indianapolis crew, the ship had been allowed to travel without an escort and without any sort of submarine detection equipment, and now her sailors would pay the price. The speed of her sinking, according to the official report, meant that her crew hadn't sent a distress call. No one knew she was in trouble.

It was only by chance that the Indianapolis' crew were spotted by American pilots on a routine sortie. By that time, the crew had been in the water for three days. Of the 1,196 men aboard, 900 made it into the water. By the time the rescue began on 2 August, only 37 sailors had survived, nearly 600 lives were lost to exposure, dehydration and shark attacks.

The delivery of the bomb had been a success, but at what price? The sinking of the Indianapolis remains, to this day, the biggest naval disaster in American history.

Revenge for Pearl Harbour

OPERATION VENGEANCE

Date: 18 April 1943
Objective: The assassination of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy
Belligerents: US Navy; Imperial Japanese Navy
Theater: The Pacific

30 December 1941, the day that Japan attacked the US Navy at Pearl Harbor, and America joined World War II. The man who planned the attack, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The US Navy made a breakthrough in early 1943 when they broke Japanese naval codes. So when a message was intercepted in April that detailed Yamamoto's inspection trip to the Solomon Islands, the Navy drew up a plan to intercept and shot down US planes needed to make a 1,000 mile round trip to avoid detection. Meaning there was only one plane with the range to execute it. The P-38G Lightning. To avoid detection, the planes had to fly no higher than 100 feet (30 metres) and observe radio silence. They arrived at the intercept point one minute early. With the fighter escort engaged by the US pilots, one of the Lightnings attacked Yamamoto's transport and hit it, causing it to plummet into the jungle below. The Lightning then broke off its attack and returned to base.

Outcome:
The US Navy got their man, Japanese morale was damaged and revenge was taken for the attack on Pearl Harbor.

SUCCESS

TARGET PROFILE: ISOROKU YAMAMOTO

- Born 1884, Nagasaki, Japan
- Died 1943, Papua New Guinea
- Rank: Marshal Admiral
- Ancestry: Japanese Empire

Born Honjo Takano, Yamamoto was the son of Takano Sadayoshi, a samurai in the Nagasaki Domain. He was adopted in 1906 by the Yamamoto family and took their name. By this time he had served in the Imperial Japanese Navy for 12 years, and had reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

In 1923 he was made Captain, and in 1943 he became Admiral. Between 1938-39, Yamamoto studied at Harvard University, something that may account for his opposition to war against the US. In spite of this, it was his plan that the Imperial Japanese Navy followed when they attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941.
**TASK FORCE BAUM**

Patton’s greatest blunder

**Date:** 26 March 1945  
**Objective:** Liberate the POW camp Oflag XIII-B, and in the process rescue Patton’s son-in-law, John W Waters  
**Belligerents:** US Army; German Army; Home Guard  
**Theater:** Europe

Conceived by General Patton and commanded by Captain Abraham Baum - the goal of Task Force Baum was to drive 90 miles into enemy territory and liberate a POW camp at Hammelburg in Germany.

This was no ordinary POW camp, however. Because John W Waters, Patton’s son-in-law, had been held there. Waters had been captured in Tunisia during the campaign in North Africa, and had recently been moved there from Silesia giving Patton his chance. The main problem the task force faced was that they didn’t know where the camp was and with only 15 maps between them, they were forced to rely on information they gathered questioning the locals to get to their target.

On 27 March, they had reached the camp. Waters was found, but was shot in the buttocks by a German soldier. Unable to move, he had to be left at the camp. When Baum’s task force began its move back to friendly lines, they were surrounded and attacked by German forces, and forced to surrender. Little had Baum known that his Task Force had been shadowed by a German observation plane throughout. Out of the 100 men they took part, 22 were killed in action and 55 made it back to Allied territory, with the remainder being captured, including Baum.

**Outcome:** Total failure. Patton was reprimanded by General Eisenhower for his actions. But at least Baum got a medal for his troubles.

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**OPERATION GUNNERSIDE**

The real heroes of Telemark

**Date:** 16-28 February 1943  
**Objective:** Destruction of the Vemork Norwegian hydro-chemical plant in Telemark  
**Protagonists:** SOE, British Commandos, Norwegian resistance, Nazi Germany  
**Theater:** Europe

In 1942, the Nazis built the world’s first atomic bomb. As the Americans and British worked on the Manhattan Project in New Mexico, the Nazis were busy making strides towards the same goal in Norway.

The Vemork hydro-chemical plant was the only plant in the world that was producing heavy water - an important component in building an atomic weapon. The Allies knew that they had to stop production at the plant, but the factory was deep in the mountains, making an assault impossible. The British Special Operations Executive (SOE) had already inserted agents into the area in the previous year (Operation Gummis) and provided them with an atom bomb. However, they were unsuccessful.

Six Norwegian commandos were parachuted into Telemark on 16 February. They met with the SOE agents and made plans for a final assault. The only option was a ground assault. The soldiers were assisted by some 1000 men from the Norwegian navy who had taken a ship behind enemy lines. The soldiers were able to capture the factory and destroy the heavy water plant.

**Outcome:** The Nazis’ supply of heavy water was completely destroyed and vital manufacturing equipment was damaged as well. The Allies were able to use the heavy water to make nuclear weapons, and the Norwegian commandos were able to escape the area.

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**TASK FORCE BAUM: Patton’s Team to Liberate Oflag XIII-B**

- **Company A:** 10th Armored Battalion; 4 officers and 240 men in half-track armoured carriers.
- **Company C:** 37th Tank Battalion; 3 officers and 56 men in tanks.
- **Company D:** 37th Tank Battalion; 1 officer and 10 men in tanks.
- **Command & Support:** 10th Armored Infantry Battalion; 3 officers and 60 men, assorted other vehicles.
Sink the Tirpitz!

OPERATION SOURCE

Date: 20-23 September 1943

Objective:
Sink three heavy German war ships stationed in Norway - the Tirpitz, Schambors and Lützow.

Belligerents:
Royal Navy, Royal Australian Navy, German Navy (Kriegsmarine)

Theater: North Sea

With the war against the Soviet Union underway, Hitler ordered his ships in the North Sea to intercept and sink the Soviet convoys transporting supplies from Iceland. The British response to this was to launch an audacious attack on three of the Kriegsmarine's largest ships, Schambors, Lützow and Tirpitz.

As one of Germany's largest two battleships, the Tirpitz was highly prized. Churchill said of it, "The destruction of even crippling of this ship is the greatest event of the present time." The three ships were stationed in occupied Norway. The British plan was to sneak up to the ships in three-man X-class midget subs and use explosives to breach the ships' hulls. The six midget subs, designated HMS Thresher (X5), Luculent (X6), Stubborn (X7), Tenacious (X8), Synth (X9) and Scorpion (X10) were towed on conventional submarines from Scotland in Norway on 20 September; the X-craft attacked on 22 September. Three X-craft were lost on their way to the targets, leaving the X5 (the fleet flagship), the X6 and X7 to attack the Tirpitz. It's believed that the X5 was sunk by the Tirpitz, but the X6 and X7 were both able to drop their charges below the Tirpitz. The charges detonated and the Tirpitz did not sink, but was so heavily damaged that she was disabled for six months. The two X-crafts were spotted and attacked. The men had to abandon the subs and were captured.

Outcome:
Although the Tirpitz wasn't sunk, she was significantly damaged - so much so that she remained out of action until April 1944.

SUCCESS

TARGET: GERMAN BATTLESHIP TIRPITZ

Tirpitz was one of the two largest German battleships of World War II, the other being the infamous Bismarck.

Tirpitz's main armament consisted of eight 15-inch guns situated in four twin turrets. She measured 255m (835ft) and had a top speed of 36 kn (33mph) and a range of 16,495nm (18,920mi). Her complement was over 2,000 men.

Her role in the war was three-fold: to deter against the prospect of an Allied invasion, in addition to preventing a breakout attack by the Soviet Navy. She was also used to intercept Allied supply ships supplying the Soviets.

The Tirpitz was eventually destroyed in September 1944 by RAF Lancasters bombers using 5,400lb (71,000lb) Tallboy bombs.

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

How a dead spy fooled the Nazis and changed the war

Date: 30 April 1943

Objective:
Spread disinformation to cover the Allied invasion of Italy

Belligerents:
SOE, Abwehr (German Intelligence)

Theater: Italy

Operation Mincemeat was arguably the greatest wartime deception ever conceived, made even more remarkable by one thing: the spy who pulled it off was dead.

Mincemeat was the brainchild of two men: Charles Cholmondeley and Ewen Montagu. The aim of the mission was to fool the Nazis into thinking the Allies would invade Greece, when the real target was Sicily. Their plan was to use a recently deceased body and give it a new identity: a wallet with papers, balls, photographs and so on was planted on a whole, convincing back story so that the Nazis would believe this was a real person. Crucially they also handcrafted an official-looking backer to the body which contained false letters about the Allied intention of Greece.

'William Martin' was discovered on the morning of 20 April by a Spanish sardine fisherman and was taken to Adolfo Coaña, an Abwehr agent working in Huelva. Mincemeat was seaweed balls, live and striker, and the misinformation went up the chain of command, all the way to Hitler. As a result, the Nazis redirected their defenses to Greece, in the process substantially weakening its Sicilian defense force. So sure were the Germans of the truth of 'William Martin's letters that they believed the invasion of Sicily was a diversionary tactic and that the real attack would be in Greece. By the time they reacted, two weeks later, the Allies had gained a vital foothold and were on the way to liberating Italy.

Outcome:
Operation Mincemeat was a complete success and saved thousands of lives in the process. As a footnote, one of the agents who worked on the operation was Ian Fleming, who went on to write the James Bond novels.

SUCCESS
Lincoln is one of those films that has "Academy Award winner" on the poster. Perhaps it’s even been misleading. A biopic of 16th American President Abraham Lincoln, it’s a film about a president, but it’s not a film about the presidency. It’s about the man, the man who led the United States through one of its most trying times, a time of great adversity, a time of great sacrifice.

Day-Lewis gives a towering performance as Lincoln, strain and doubt etched into his face. The performance is masterful, a tour de force of acting. Day-Lewis captures the essence of the man, the complicated man, the man who was not always right, who was not always successful, but who was always true to his convictions.

Spielberg has handled this material with great care, creating a film that is both historical and personal. The film is a. And it’s a film about the man, the man who was a president, the man who was a father, the man who was a husband, the man who was a friend.

Fact vs. Fiction in Lincoln

While the film is based on historical events, there are some significant liberties taken. For example, the film portrays Lincoln as a man who was frequently in mourning, a man who was constantly in pain. In reality, Lincoln was a man who was often in good spirits, a man who was frequently in good health.

Verdict ★★★★★

If you like this try... Lincoln: The White House Historical Association's guide to the film's historical accuracy.
Reviews

MOVIES & APPS

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Education and travel

HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE AGES: THE TEXTBOOK

Available on: iPhone, iPad and Android

British Library

D-Day 1944

Available on: iPhone, iPad and Android

Glorious India (History)

Available on: iPhone, iPad and Android

US Historical Documents Pro

Available on: iPhone, iPad and Android

Propaganda or protest?
ART OF CONFLICT: THE MURALS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Available on: Netflix

At first glance, the idea of a middle-class, middle-aged writer being the main character of a film might sound unappealing. But this is exactly what happens in “Art of Conflict: The Murals of Northern Ireland.” The story is based on the true experiences of a photographer who documented the murals of the Troubles period in Northern Ireland.

The film is a powerful exploration of the political and social aspects of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Through a combination of interviews with the photographer and archival footage, the film paints a vivid picture of the murals and the messages they carried.

The murals were used as a form of resistance and a means of expression for the people of Northern Ireland. They became a visual representation of the struggles and pain experienced by the community.

Using the murals as a means of communication, the people of Northern Ireland expressed their feelings and opinions about the conflict. The murals were a form of propaganda, a way to resist the power of the state and to assert their rights.

The film captures the energy and passion of the people who created and viewed the murals. It is a testament to their resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

Overall, “Art of Conflict: The Murals of Northern Ireland” is a thought-provoking film that offers a unique perspective on the Troubles period in Northern Ireland. It is a must-watch for anyone interested in the history of the conflict and its impact on the people of the region.
We all know the opening scene of Patton, but there was a lot of nothing about at what point Patton decided to write his big speech. George C. Scott thought that the speech should be set in the film, believing that it would overshadow anything that came after it. Writer Francis Ford Coppola was determined that Patton had to open with a demonstration of his oratory powers. Coppola was right. Anyone who's seen Patton will tell you that the opening scene is a masterpiece. Although the montage itself is a cobbled together from several different sources, it establishes the general as someone who would go to any lengths to achieve his goals.

Director Franklin J. Schaffner's work as sometimes considered the also directed Planet Of The Apes is because of the writing, performance, and the film's overall quality. Rather than any masterpiece of its own, Patton was a triumph of his character who not only struck fear and awe into the hearts of his enemies, but those of his own. As such, Scott's turn as the title role is a masterclass for any actor who makes a career out of playing tough, strong, and noble men. From that opening scene to the final scenes of him walking his dogs with a message in a bottle, Patton is a film of nature that dominates the entirety of the 120 minutes running time.

Over forty years after its original release it's clear that Patton came at a time when Hollywood was changing. There's an impressive depth to the film that goes beyond the exploration of a rare breed. The film explores the general's bravery and courage, but also the flaws, resulting in a revealing picture of a man who valued his men above all else. In modern history, the true geniuses of history, like poetry, and condemned cowardice.

"Over 40 years after its original release, it's clear that Patton came when Hollywood was changing."

**THE UNTOLD HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES**

Reappraising the American century

*Available on: DVD, LoveFilm*

Not by nature a documentary, Hollywood heavyweight Oliver Stone has nonetheless offered his signature brand of revisionist history through the likes of JFK, Born On The Fourth July and Platoon. The Untold History Of The United States co-written by American University academic Peter Kuznick, is very much the tearing down that wall of fiction. As Stone directly communicates with his audience over the series 12 episodes, he is a man with a mission to inform, and there's something incredibly endearing about that, making this documentary.

Opening with the decision to drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan at the close of World War II and continuing through the Cold War to the present, Stone analyzes archive footage in measured tones, never becoming or evangilizing simply laying out the information. That the director used the BBC's epic The World At War as his template is obvious, and he channels much of that same persuasive gravitas.

Controversial in the US, where it was accused of both recycling Soviet propaganda and claiming a racial equivalence between Stalinist genocide and duplicious American foreign policy, The Untold History Of The United States is never as aggressive as all that. Though as you probably picked up from the profile of its creator, and the cliché cover art, this is a show for people who already care about the subject matter.

**Verdict ****

*If you like this try...*
THE GHOSTS OF HAPPY VALLEY

Sex and scandal in colonial Kenya

Author: Juliet Barnes
Publisher: Aurum
Price: £16.99

While the Mitford sisters have long had biographical publishing with their unique brand of uncontrollable scandal, the rise of TV's "Downton Abbey" and its international audience has revived the interest in the lives of the wealthy and powerful in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Barnes merges travelogue with history, visiting the ruined and reclaimed homes of the wealthy and ennobled white settlers of Kenya in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Happy Valley set was celebrated for scandal and promiscuity, and Barnes covers topics such as "george shit" and married men being in the same room as tennis players. The author's journey takes her from luxury lodges to the ruins of old homesteads, exploring the lives of the rich and famous who once inhabited these homes.

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The author's journey to find out from locals where the set was and how it's disappeared is admirable. The book is rich with detail and insight, offering a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the wealthy and powerful who once inhabited these homes.
HISTORY — THE DEFINITIVE VISUAL GUIDE

Author: Various Publisher: Dorling Kindersley Price: £25.00

This hefty hardback from Dorling Kindersley is yet another proud effort from a publisher dedicated to creating beautiful, informative and accessible books that can be enjoyed by any age group. The title may be something of a bold mission statement (putting the word ‘definitive’ in front of anything is inviting criticism), but this is an extensive and sweeping introduction to a vast array of subjects.

From the origins of humankind to the development of modern communication systems, this book offers nearly 500 pages of concise but comprehensive information. There’s an excellent balance between well-chosen beautiful pictures and texts containing key facts and highlights. The additional information on the influences and consequences of the key events, movements and historical figures chosen for further study. For example, the section on the American Civil War contains a section on Aftermath that details the reasons behind the context and the effects that emancipation and reconstruction had on the American people, as well as a short piece on Ulysses S. Grant.

The book is split into seven main sections, and it is worth noting that there is not a slight tendency to focus on Western history after the Ancient Egyptian period. The development of Europe and the United States is given more of the attention than the post-Renaissance period, although the section that looks at the Renaissance does include mention of European trade around the world. However, departure looks at the development of agriculture in the Graeco-Roman and western 20th Century with special emphasis on the Russian Revolution as a way to reform the balance. It goes without saying that if you’re looking for a more detailed look at a particular period in history, then such a broad tome might not be the perfect choice. However, for a British publisher than an English history, this is a starting point for a young person beginning to show an interest in the subject. Though, this is a fantastic resource; it provides a comprehensive guide that is enjoyable and easy to read. It is a general guide to those who would be the perfect gift for someone who is just starting to discover history.

Verdict: 5/5

THE CONQUEST OF THE OCEAN

A surprising thorough study of seafaring

Author: Brian Lavery Publisher: Dorling Kindersley Price: £19.99

Often with sweeping introductions like this glossy full-colour, illustrated tome, you expect the obvious clichés, Columbus and Magellan, who author Brian Lavery more than delivers on, but its to the veteran historian’s credit that he delivers on much more.

An admiringly global account, Lavery, Curator Emeritus at Britain’s National Maritime Museum and historical consultant for Master And Commander: The Far Side Of The World, breaks maritime history into manageable chunks, laid out chronologically. The Conquest Of The Ocean moves briskly from ill-fated Viking journeys over the North Atlantic to the incredible voyages of Zheng He’s Chinese treasure fleet and the Polynesian exploration of the South Pacific ending with the course-changing naval engagements of the First and Second World Wars, the Cuban Missile Crisis and finally the modern battle with piracy

These huge topics are breezily presented yet never patronising - you’re flipping pages to explore each deftly deployed photograph of a historical artifact, contemporary illustration and the spread-scaled maps showing shipwrecks, pirate bases, maritime battlefields, reefs and prevailing winds. Presentation being Lavery’s weapon of choice. It’s no surprise that The Conquest Of The Ocean looks fantastic, but that Lavery is able to break complex issues into engaging human drama that’s both emotive and balanced - especially when dealing with contentious topics like capitalism and imperialism. Whatever your age, level of knowledge, you’re given a fresh perspective.

Given Lavery’s obvious career focus, his bibliography is studded with texts on the Regency-to-modern era British Royal Navy; there’s an increasing Anglophileism in the book moves forward. Starting near the mid-point and the age of the ocean-going European empires, British and American history comes strongly to the fore. Arguably, their weight in the narrative reflects fact, and the birth of these countries as huge naval powers, but many would gladly sacrifice the Falklands War and America’s Cup for more insight into the rest of the globe.

Verdict: 5/5

If you like this try...

Richard Holmes

A captivating account of mankind’s dream of flight. From the legendary “Edison tiled his face” to incredible feats in the name of science.
World War II collection shared

Dave Harfield,

Around 1950, I thought I should open the manila folder containing a photograph of my great-grandfather, a World War II naval officer. The manila folder contains photographs, letters, and diary entries. The letters are from his wife and other family members. The diary entries describe his daily routine and his service in the Royal Navy. The photographs are of his shipmates and the battles they fought in. One photograph is of the USS Yorktown, which I recently had the opportunity to visit during a trip to the United States. It was a poignant experience to see the battleship that my great-grandfather served on.

Do you have a naval history in your family?

Send your memories to: @ allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk
Nostalgic family snaps

Amy Forrest
Myself and my twin brother Henry are the first generation of our family to not travel with the fun fair. We came from a long line of travelling showmen and our two families, Forrest and Edwards, were well known within the fair community. On a recent visit to Dingledale Fair Museum in Devon I saw a red and white sign on one of the old, rusted rides that actually belonged to my mother’s great great uncle.

Our parents decided to settle down and stop travelling when we were still babies, but we did have a site with other showmen in a huge American-style caravan until we were seven when we moved into a house. My only childhood was full of memories of playing with all the other children on the site - it was like having another family. We did everything together, which I missed when we moved to the countryside where there were hardly any other families nearby.

Even after we moved we would still visit family and friends at the fair. I remember helping my grandfather loading cobs into the guns for his shooting game, going on all the rides for free, and eating candyfloss till I felt sick. While the fun fair was a fantastic place for a child, I did get to see the reality behind the rides, the struggle to make enough money when these parks opened, the dangerous background mechanics of the machines and the abuse sometimes endured by the showmen. But despite these things, it’s a wonderful life with a strong sense of community, hard work and above all, fun!

Did your family work on fun fairs? Share your story with us!

@AllaboutHistory
Fascinating family stories

Sarah Harrison

When my grandmother was a little girl, she and her younger sister grew up in the Bird in Hand pub in Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, where their father was landlord for seven years. Many happy memories were had there, but one of the most memorable has to be seeing the 1950 FA Cup Final between Portsmouth and Wolverhampton Wanderers. After beating Wolves 4-1, Pompey were presented with the FA Cup by King George VI. Developments surrounding the Second World War meant that the competition was suspended. As a result, the FA Cup travelled the surrounding areas of Portsmouth in order to escape the naval coves set up on the Bird in Hand for two years.

My grandmother said that her father took it on the edge of guarding the Cup very seriously. It would rest on top of the bar, beneath the bar in the dark night hours, and at night would guard under the bar. My ancestors were rightly proud of their responsibility, as this photo shows.

Send your memories to: allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk
Your treasures and heirlooms

A mysterious object
Cathy Blackman
We only found out what this was years after we bought it. It’s a pondering tub – also sometimes known as a saltling tub or pondering trough – which was used for salting meat.

In ‘mint’ condition
Ben Biggs
The farthing was worth one quarter of a penny and couldn’t buy you very much even when it was minted, around 150 years ago. Incredibly, at the same time a one-third farthing (one twelfth of a penny) was minted for the British colony of Malta. The George III gold three-guineas (worth seven shillings, or 42p today) is a metal detector find I purchased on eBay. For me it’s a nice reminder of colonial Britain at its height.
Last is a William IV sovereign (worth 20 shillings, or £200 today) dated 1826 with an overstrike error, where one date has been struck over another. Such errors are usually caught these days, but some still slip through. These coins are in such good condition because they are stored in protective pockets. Did you know that the term ‘mint condition’ originally stems from the collection of coins, referring to the condition in which newly manufactured coins leave the mint where coins are produced.

Message in a poison bottle
Ben Biggs
I dug this poison bottle out of an abandoned quarry, characteristically hexagonal and corrugated to warn those with poor eyesight. Luckily for me, the Victorians were notoriously wasteful because they produced some beautiful (and very collectible) bottles.

From the trenches with love
Cathy Blackman
These World War I postcards were among a collection inherited from my great grandmother. One was from her brother Alex, sent home from the trenches of World War I and postmarked January 1917. I understand that Alex survived the war, so the souvenir cards showing ‘before’ and ‘after’ pictures of various towns may well have been brought back by him.

Do you have any old finds you’d like to share?
Facebook: @AllAboutHistory
Twitter: @AllAboutHistoryMag
Downfall chronicles the last days of Hitler in World War II, as the Soviets march on Berlin and the Nazi leader loses control of the war and his commanding generals.

**WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...**

01 Joseph Goebbels commits suicide by the German people chose their fate, after learning his personal recruits had been killed due to poor training and substantial damage. While the sentiment is accurate, his actual suicide was far more powerful, justifying Hitler's action and ending with the line "the world will shake when we leave the scene."

02 Albert Spitz has a brief conversation with Traudl Junge, Hitler's personal secretary, about whether she plans to stay in the bunker or escape and survive. Yet this conversation is never mentioned in Speer's own recollections, nor by others who were in Hitler's bunker at the time. It's likely this conversation was fabricated for the sake of the movie.

03 SS Obergruppenführer Theobald Tretschatke is Hitler's personal assistant. However, the actual role of Spitz in the bunker is more complex. Hitler committed suicide at the end of the war and his personal secretary was later captured by the Russians.

04 Peter Kosel is a part of the Hitler Youth and is known for his bravery during the war. However, Peter and Alfred were not involved in the events leading to the evacuation of the bunker. The movie simplifies the events and focuses on the emotional aspects.

05 Peter Kosel was actually captured by the Russians and was later released. The movie portrays him as a hero, which is not accurate.

06 Peter Kosel is believed to be based on a composite of Hitler Youth members, but mostly inspired by the story of Alfred Greive, who won the Iron Cross. The movie overlooks the lives of other members during the evacuation of the bunker.

07 Downfall ends with Traudl Junge leaving the bunker and narrowly evading capture by Russian soldiers thanks to the intervention of Peter. However, we know Peter doesn't exist, so what really happened? Unfortunately, the truth is Traudl was captured by Russian soldiers.
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