Disney’s dark side
The ugly reality that will destroy all your preconceptions of the animation king

BATTLE OF AGINCOURT
Blow-by-blow of the day when chivalry died

Diep of a Suffragette
The tragic truth behind the Epsom Derby suicide

GUNPOWDER PLOT
Inside the original War on Terror
How England’s most audacious attack was foiled

Survive the Great Purge
Do you have what it takes to beat Stalin’s Russia?

www.historyanswers.co.uk

My Blitz childhood
How kids coped growing up among destruction
600th Anniversary Exhibition

Discover the medieval armour, art, music, sculpture and manuscripts which together reveal the story, legacy and myths of this extraordinary battle.

Tower of London

The national collection of arms and armour at the Tower of London

www.royalarmouries.org
#Agincourt600
Welcome

“Remember, remember the fifth of November.” It’s hard to forget the story of Guy Fawkes and his plot to blow up Parliament. It’s a tale we’re told as children and reminded of every year, so it’s easy to assume there’s little more to know about this fateful day beyond the traitor whose effigy we burn each Bonfire Night.

In fact, the origins of the plot lie not with Fawkes but with another man - one who has almost been lost to history. His name was Robert Catesby, and it was he who masterminded the plan to smuggle barrels of gunpowder beneath the House of Lords. His aim: to blow its occupants to smithereens. On page 28, uncover the truth behind the most audacious terrorist plot of the 17th century.

This autumn also marks 600 years since the Battle of Agincourt - perhaps the most infamous clash of the Hundred Years’ War. On page 58, you’ll find a blow-by-blow account of the battle as told through the eyes of Henry V. We also investigate the Epsom Derby ‘suicide’ - did Emily Davison really mean to die for women’s rights? Find out on page 80.

The Great Wall of China
From its backbreaking construction in the 3rd century BCE to the Mongol invasions 1,000 years later, discover the history of this ancient wonder.

The butcher of Agincourt: Henry V
We mark 600 years since the remarkable English win on the French battlefields with a special feature on Henry V.

The Epsom Derby suicide
With the release of Suffragette, we expose the truth behind one of the movement’s most infamous deeds.

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ENJOYED THE MAGAZINE?
SUBSCRIBE & SAVE 25% Page 54
Ojibwe Native Americans survived largely on a diet of meat and fish, and clung to the ancient technique of spearfishing right up until the 20th century. The spear was made from local wood and had a sharp tip made of copper or bone. Fishermen would float silently in their birch-bark canoes or stand in the shallows for as long as it took for their prey to swim by.
While the Cold War raged between the West and East, another conflict had broken out in seaside resorts across Britain that was anything but cold. The battle was between Mods and Rockers - two very different youth subcultures. In the spring of 1964, the holidaying gangs clashed on the streets and promenades, using fish hooks, bike chains and deck chairs as weapons. 

May 1964
When Socks the stray cat jumped into the arms of a young girl as she left her piano lesson in 1991, little did he know that he would soon become the most famous pet in the United States. The girl’s name was Chelsea – the only daughter of the future president Bill Clinton – and Socks had secured himself a place not only in their home but also in the hearts of every cat lover in the country.
Newton's first telescope is the earliest known functional reflecting telescope.

Elon Musk founded SpaceX in 2002 with the goal of creating technologies that will reduce the cost of space travel and enable the colonisation of Mars.

Edward H White became the first American astronaut to walk in space on 3 June 1965.
This view of the rising Earth that greeted the Apollo 8 astronauts as they came from behind the Moon after the fourth nearside orbit.

When the 26-inch telescope of the US Naval Observatory was installed in 1873, it was the largest refracting telescope in the world.

Buzz Aldrin salutes the American flag on the Moon, 20 July 1969.

NASA and Manned Spacecraft Center officials celebrate the historic event of man successfully walking on the Moon.

The first ever photo of the surface of a comet was sent back after the Philae Lander's successful touchdown on 13 November 2014.

Galileo Galilei demonstrates how to use a telescope.

Maria Mitchell, the first American woman to work as a professional astronomer.

Spectators moments after witnessing the explosion of Space Shuttle Challenger 73 seconds after liftoff on 28 January 1986. All seven astronauts aboard were killed.

Sally Ride became the first American woman in space in 1983.

Flying aboard Voyagers 1 and 2 is the Sounds Of Earth gold-plated record, which contains greetings in 60 languages, samples of music and electronic information that can be converted into photographs. The diagram is a key to playing the record.
The supernova of 1054

Chinese astronomers witness the appearance of a 'new star', or 'nova', in the constellation of Taurus, the Bull. The nova is actually a supernova - an exploding star.

Galileo observes Jupiter's moons

Although Galileo didn't invent the telescope, he did build his own and was the first person to use one to make ground-breaking discoveries about our universe. When he pointed his small refracting telescope at Jupiter, he saw four bright dots either side of the planet. These dots moved over the coming nights and Galileo realised they were orbiting Jupiter, proving not everything orbits Earth, which was what people believed at the time. He also saw phases on Venus with his telescope, looking like the phases of the Moon, again providing evidence that the phases were changing as Venus orbited the Sun.

The supernova of 1054

Chinese astronomers witness the appearance of a 'new star', or 'nova', in the constellation of Taurus, the Bull. The nova is actually a supernova - an exploding star.
First man in space
SOVIET UNION APRIL 1961

After the launch of Sputnik 1, the race to put the first person in space was on between the Soviet Union and the USA. The Soviet Union won the race and, on 12 April 1961, Yuri Gagarin blasted off in Vostok 1, which was a tiny capsule with no room to move in. He completed one orbit of Earth before parachuting to the ground. The USA followed up the Soviet’s success with the launch of Alan Shepard in the Freedom 7 mission, achieving sub-orbital spaceflight on 5 May 1961, less than a month after Gagarin. Sadly, Yuri Gagarin died aged 34 in an aeroplane crash in 1968.

GALAXIES BEYOND THE MILKY WAY
USA 1923

Our Sun exists inside the Milky Way galaxy - a great spiral of 200 billion stars. When 19th-century astronomers began discovering faint spirals of light in the night sky, they assumed these were nebulae, because they were too faint to be able to identify individual stars within them. By the 1920s, however, astronomers were able to use the 2.5-metre-wide Hooker Telescope and with it, Edwin Hubble observed individual stars in these spiral nebulae. He found them to be so far away they must lie beyond our own Milky Way.

APOLLO 11
USA JULY 1969

On 20 July 1969, two astronauts went where no man had gone before, stepping onto the surface of the Moon. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made history when they piloted the Eagle down to the lunar surface, but nearly came close to disaster twice: before landing, Armstrong had to take manual control to steer the Eagle away from dangerous boulders, and then before leaving the Moon, they had to fix a broken switch that would fire the main engine by jamming a felt-tip pen in it. Apollo 11 was followed by five further successful landings on the Moon.

Discovery of exoplanets
SWITZERLAND 1995

Science fiction has always presented to us planets beyond our own Solar System. It wasn’t until the 1990s though that the first extra-solar planets, or exoplanets for short, were discovered. The first were giant gas bags that orbited very close to their stars and, consequently, were very hot, in the most extreme cases over 1,000 degrees Celsius. The first planets around Sun-like stars were found in 1995. NASA’s Kepler Space Telescope, launched in 2009, has found thousands of exoplanets, including a handful that could potentially be suitable for life.
How to DISCOVER A PLANET
TIRELESSLY SCANNING THE GALAXY TO MAKE A MONUMENTAL DISCOVERY EUROPE, 18TH CENTURY

Only two of the planets in our solar system have been officially discovered - Uranus and Neptune (including Pluto). All the rest have been known since antiquity and can be observed, unaided, by the human eye. When the telescope made its debut in the 17th century, it opened up the sky for an array of curious minds and astronomers to explore the galaxy in a way never before fathomed. Interest in astronomy skyrocketed, and increasingly accurate instruments were created. In the late 18th century, Sir William Herschel gazed upon the planet of Uranus and became the first person in history to officially discover a planet.

Focal length
The focal length is where this telescope got its name from: it was 40 foot, or 12 metres, long, making it the largest telescope in the world for 50 years.

Mount
The body of this huge, cumbersome telescope was fixed on to a fully rotatable alt-azimuth mount - which has two perpendicular axes.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
- Chair
- Journal
- Telescope
- Star charts
- Lantern

Mirrors
The telescope featured a 48-inch diameter mirror. Most telescopes of the era featured another small diagonal mirror, but these had poor reflectivity, so Herschel eliminated it.

Discoveries
When Herschel first used this telescope on the night of 28 August 1789, he discovered a new moon of Saturn; in the same month another moon was discovered.

Scaffolding
The telescope was surrounded by scaffolding that rose 50 feet into the air. To reach the eyepiece, Herschel, and even the king himself, had to climb it.

Study hard
Astronomy in the 18th century is a complex art that has to be studied. You can't simply point a telescope at the sky and hope to find something. No amateur has ever discovered a planet, so be sure to swot up on everything about space. As astronomy is a rapidly developing art, it's also important to keep up with the finest minds in the business.

Build your telescope
Although gaining popularity, astronomy is still a flourishing art, and shops don't stock telescopes. So, you're going to have to either befriend the right people and borrow theirs or build your own. Herschel constructed more than 400 telescopes during his career, and many of these were made in his own home.
How not to... earn credibility as an astronomer

Several 18th and 19th-century astronomers, who are otherwise acclaimed, are now being criticized today because of their claims and beliefs about extra-terrestrial life. The same William Herschel who discovered Uranus and was celebrated as a genius, believed that alien life inhabited basically every planet and object in the universe, including stars. He claimed to have found evidence that life existed on the Moon and described it as similar to the English countryside. He even claimed that beings were inhabiting the Sun, explaining: "As similarity to the other globes of the solar system... leads us to suppose that it is most probably inhabited... by beings whose organs are adapted to the peculiar circumstances of that vast globe." He wasn't the only one: Percival Lowell, an early 20th-century astronomer, dedicated years of his life to creating intricate drawings of what he called the "canals" of Mars. He believed these surface markings were wells dug by intelligent species living on the planet.

4 FAMOUS... ASTRONOMERS

HIPPARCHUS
GREECE, 190 BCE – 120 BCE
Known as the father of astronomy, Hipparchus created the first-known star catalogue and the method of measuring a star's brightness, which is still used today.

NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
ROYAL PRUSSIA, 1473-1543
Although not the first to propose that the Earth travelled around the Sun, Copernicus's theory was a landmark in the history of science.

TYCHO BRAHE
DENMARK, 1546-1601
Before the invention of the telescope, Brahe paved the way for astronomers by developing instruments and making accurate astronomical observations.

CHARLES MESSIER
FRANCE, 1730-1817
As the discoverer, you have the honour of naming the planet - which can be tricky. Herschel originally named Uranus 'Georgium Sidus', or 'George's star', after King George III, but this did not go down well in France. It was then known as 'Herschel' for several years, until finally the name Uranus, with roots in Greek and Roman mythology, stuck.

Search the galaxy
When Herschel discovered Uranus, he wasn't actually looking for a planet, he was studying stars, which is not a bad place to start. Spend some time studying the ways that stars behave. The more familiar you get with how objects act, the more something unusual will stand out. It is also key to take lots of notes and start a detailed scientific journal.

Strike lucky
With an 18th-century telescope, you won't easily be able to spot a planet. In fact, it will likely look identical to the many stars you see - a fuzzy blob. It may take months, or even years, but hopefully you'll strike lucky and discover a new planet. For Herschel, this wasn't a eureka moment; he studied Uranus many times before concluding it was a planet.

Give it a name
Enjoy your fame
A discovery such as this is monumental, and you'll be the subject of much praise. If your experience is anything like Herschel's, you'll be an overnight sensation, made court astronomer and even knighted. Of course, all eyes are now on you for more amazing discoveries, so you better dust off that telescope and settle down for a few more years.

Enjoy your fame
A discovery such as this is monumental, and you'll be the subject of much praise. If your experience is anything like Herschel's, you'll be an overnight sensation, made court astronomer and even knighted. Of course, all eyes are now on you for more amazing discoveries, so you better dust off that telescope and settle down for a few more years.
5 things you probably didn’t know about...

STEPHEN HAWKING
THE TRAILBLAZING PHYSICIST WHO HAS MADE SCIENCE ACCESSIBLE TO THE MASSES

01 His school grades were mediocre
Hawking is now considered one of the greatest physicists of our time, but his grades at school were average at best. Luckily his teachers were able to see something special in him and put him forward for the Oxford scholarship exam. His score was almost perfect.

02 His family were eccentric
Hawking’s parents were poor but they lived in a large, cluttered house that was in various states of disrepair. Their car was an old London taxi, they usually ate dinner in silence while all reading books, they had bees in their basement and would even make fireworks in the greenhouse.

03 His success came after diagnosis
Before he was diagnosed, Hawking was not a dedicated student, averaging about one hour of study a day. He commented that: “Before my condition was diagnosed, I had been very bored with life.” The news that he may only have a few years to live prompted Hawking to pour his time into his research.

04 He believes time travel is possible
Hawking isn’t afraid to make dramatic or unusual statements in regards to physics and cosmology. He has stated he believes humans will colonise other planets in the future, and thinks forward time travel could happen. He has outlined three different theories of how humans may be able to travel through time.

05 He is wary of the power of AI
A robot revolution may seem the stuff of science fiction, but Hawking believes that it is a very real possibility. He has warned those developing AI to do more research into the possible ramifications, stating that success in creating AI could be the biggest event in human history, but also the last.
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Since the dawn of humanity, civilizations have looked to the skies for their gods, divine messages, signals for their prophecies and reference points for their calendars. For the Egyptians, the Milky Way was the milk that poured from a huge celestial cow. For the Maya people, the universe was defined by cosmic trees, one at its centre and four set at its corners, with branches that reached up to the heavens and roots that burrowed down into the underworld. The primitive tribes of India thought that the Earth was held on the backs of elephants standing on the shell of a tortoise. Many of the beliefs of those times have long been proved wrong, while others, like those of the Sumerian astronomers, are astonishingly similar to present-day interpretations.

This ancient Mesopotamian civilization was well aware of the predictability of celestial bodies, and plotted the movements of the Sun and Moon to establish an accurate calendar. They mapped the stars into sets of constellations, many of which survive in the zodiac, and were also aware of the five planets that are visible to the naked eye from Earth. These early astronomers used their observations to plot the seasons, as well as to make astrological prophecies.

The development of the calendar
The Sumerians were among the first civilizations to create a calendar. This was based on the lunar cycle, with 12 months of 28 days making up a year, and was synchronised with the seasons with the addition of an extra month every four years. The early Egyptians, Greeks and Semitic peoples had similar calendars, and the Romans also had a calendar based on the Moon, but by the time of Julius Caesar, the summer months were arriving in the spring. He corrected this by introducing the Julian calendar in 46 BCE, with a 365-day year and an extra day added every fourth - or leap - year.
New Moon
The Sumerian month began at sunset, with the first visible crescent of the new moon. Days also began and ended at sunset.

Astrolabe
This simple instrument allowed the priests to determine the position and movement of the stars they could see.

Baru priest
Religion and astronomy were very much intertwined in the ancient world. Priest-astronomers were responsible for keeping track of the Sumerian calendar, as well as making astrological divinations. They believed they could use the stars to make predictions about the future of city-states and the outcomes of battles, but they did not believe personal prophecies could be made.

GEO-CENTRISM
Claudius Ptolemaeus summarised ancient astronomy and describes the Earth as the centre of the universe with the rest of the planets turning around it.

NEW PARADIGM
The Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus revolted against the geocentric system of the Greeks and considered that all the planets, including the Earth, orbited around the Sun.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS
Galileo makes his first astronomical observations with his telescope, discovering the craters on the moon and the satellites of Jupiter.
Hall of Fame

STARS OF THE SKIES

The scientists and explorers (and one chimp) who worked to help humankind conquer the final frontier and make sense of the stars

CARL SAGAN
AMERICAN 1934-96

A gifted astronomer and leading consultant to NASA, Carl Sagan brought the wonders of the universe into people's homes as the co-creator and presenter of TV series Cosmos. His hunger for discovery challenged popular beliefs, like suggesting that Venus was not Earth-like as previously thought. Today, his legacy lives on in the students he inspired, including Steven Squyres - the man who's looking for life beyond Earth as principal scientist of NASA's Mars Rover mission. “Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known”

EDWIN POWELL HUBBLE
AMERICAN 1899-1953

It took many cold nights next to the largest telescope in the world, but Edwin Hubble discovered we are not alone. He proved that the universe is expanding and our galaxy - the Milky Way - is just one of many galaxies scattered throughout space. This theory, known today as Hubble's law, laid the foundation for the Big Bang theory - that the universe exploded into existence and has been expanding ever since. Surprisingly, Hubble never won a Nobel Prize (there was no category for astronomy at the time), but our most powerful eye on the universe, the Hubble telescope, is named after him.

NEIL ARMSTRONG
AMERICAN 1930-2012

"Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." With those words, households across the globe erupted with joy - for the first time, man had made it to the Moon. On 20 July 1969, Neil Armstrong became a hero. A childhood fascination with flight led him to serve in the US Navy, before becoming an astronaut in 1962. Though he has passed away, Armstrong's footprints will remain on the Moon for millions of years - there's no wind to blow them away.

HAM THE CHIMP
CAMEROONIAN 1956-83

Ham was just one of hundreds of animals used in space experiments, but he was the first chimp to show that tasks could be performed in space. He was chosen from six 'astrochimps' that underwent training as part of NASA's Project Mercury - the USA's programme to put a human in orbit around Earth. Prior to launch, Ham was known as No 65, but when he survived with nothing but a bruised nose, NASA had nothing to fear about public reaction and gave him a name. Christened Ham after the Holloman Aerospace Medical Center, he lived out the rest of his days in a zoo.
ALEXEI LEONOV
RUSSIAN 1934-PRESENT
The Soviets beat the US to the first spacewalk in history in 1965. Drifting alongside the Voskhod 2 capsule, Alexei Leonov was overwhelmed by the view. On Earth, his young daughter watched as he took his first steps, sobbing and shouting for him to get back inside. What no one knew is that Leonov nearly died that day. Oxygen levels almost turned the spacewalk into a fireball, but Soviets censored the truth for years after.

HENRIETTA SWAN LEAVITT
AMERICAN 1868-1921
Leavitt went largely unrecognised for her work, but her method for calculating the distances of objects in space was ground breaking for astronomy as a whole, enabling astronomers to work out our position in the universe. At the time, female astronomers weren't even allowed to operate telescopes. Working for astronomer Edward Pickering, she was paid a measly 30 cents an hour to wade through reams of data, which makes her discovery all the more inspiring.

ERATO THENES
GREEK 276 BCE - 184 BCE
Contrary to popular belief, Christopher Columbus did not discover the Earth was round - the concept dates back to 6th century BCE. With that knowledge, Greek astronomer Eratosthenes was able to estimate the Earth's circumference. While head librarian in Alexandria, Egypt - the centre of science and learning in the ancient world - he observed the angle of the Sun's rays and was able to calculate our planet's size with impressive accuracy.

GALILEO GALILEI
ITALIAN 1564-1642
People have been studying the Sun, Moon and stars for more than 5,000 years, in Babylon and Ancient Egypt. But it wasn't until Galileo Galilei created the world's first telescope in 1609 that we found that the Moon was filled with craters. A gifted mathematician, Galilei tweaked the design of the spyglass - a device that magnified distant objects - and developed the first telescope. He then went on to discover four moons orbiting Jupiter and gathered evidence that suggested the Earth revolved around the Sun. This clashed with the Catholic Church's beliefs and resulted in him being put on trial and sentenced to life imprisonment.

YURI GAGARIN
RUSSIAN 1934-63
The first human to ever journey to space was a 27-year-old fighter pilot from the Soviet Union in 1961. Yuri Gagarin was only given a 50 per cent chance of surviving the trip, so it was kept a secret from the public until he returned. When news broke of this amazing achievement, a six-hour parade on Red Square was held in his honour and Gagarin became a national treasure. He travelled all over the world, speaking of the wonders of space and the beauty of our planet, but his fame made him too valuable to send on further missions. He died in a military training flight, aged 34.

VALENTINA TERESHKOVA
RUSSIAN 1937-PRESENT
Hungry to achieve another 'space first', the Soviet Union searched for the candidate who would become the first woman to travel to space. That's how 26-year-old textile factory worker and keen skydiver Valentina Tereshkova ended up making history in 1963. Her passion for parachuting meant she was equipped to eject from the Vostok 6 spacecraft when returning to Earth at about 20,000 feet (3.78 miles). After a year of intense cosmonaut training, she was ready for her mission, saying: "Hey, sky! Take off your hat, I'm coming!" After nearly three days and 48 orbits, Tereshkova returned as a global celebrity. It would be 19 years before another woman, Svetlana Savitskaya, would follow in her footsteps.
In 1998, the first component of the International Space Station was launched into orbit. Over the next 13 years, a further 159 components were added to what is now the largest artificial body in orbit. Originally conceived to serve as an observatory, laboratory and base for future missions, over the years the role of the ISS has greatly expanded. The first long duration stay on the station, called Expedition 1, began on 2 November 2000. The three-person crew was on board for 136 days. Responsible for activating numerous systems, all eyes were on this monumental mission, which would be the start of an uninterrupted human presence on the station.

EXERCISE
Aboard the ISS, the microgravity of space causes muscles to lose mass and bones to lose calcium; daily exercise reduces the risk of this. The first crew on the ISS had three pieces of equipment - a stationary bicycle, a treadmill and a device for weight lifting that had all been specially modified to work in space. Many astronauts aboard the ISS are required to exercise a couple of times each day.

STAY REFRESHED
There was only one toilet aboard the ISS during Expedition 1, and using it was no easy feat. The astronaut had to be strapped down to the toilet and then use a lever that operated a fan and suction hole. Although showers have existed on space stations since the 1970s, the extremely difficult and lengthy procedure was simplified on the ISS. There is no shower on board and instead astronauts use a water jet and wet wipes to clean themselves.

BEGIN WORK
The first crew on the station had an incredible amount of work to do. Not only did they have to unpack equipment, but they were also responsible for activating a large number of on-board systems. The commander, Bill Shepherd, commented that they had to fit 30 hours of work into an 18-hour workday. As well as initial set-up procedures, later crews also had research and maintenance tasks to complete and even spacewalks.
EAT LUNCH
Although astronauts on the ISS today are able to enjoy a great variety of food, early inhabitants were not so lucky. There is no refrigerator on board, so all fresh food had to be consumed immediately. Everything eaten was either frozen, dehydrated or heat stabilised, with most of it being vacuum sealed. Generally, food was not very enjoyable due to the reduced sense of taste in space, and early efforts were concerned more with ensuring the astronauts received their required calories, rather than providing a palatable meal.

WELCOME VISITORS
In the early days of the ISS, visitors were frequent, and Expedition 1 hosted three space shuttle crews and also accepted two unmanned Progress resupply vehicles. Although seeing new faces helped socially, these were vital visits as the space shuttles carried essential supplies, equipment and further components of the space station itself. Later crews also occasionally accepted ‘space tourists’ - individuals who purchased a spare seat to the ISS.

PERSONAL TIME
Every crew member aboard Expedition 1 was given several hours of free time each day, which was essential for their well being as well as helping to bond the crew. This was usually a two-hour period before bed in which the astronauts could read emails, make phone calls and watch movies. On Expedition 1, the crew watched movies including 2010, the sequel to 2001: A Space Odyssey.

SLEEP
The crew followed a strict schedule when it came to sleep, with the sleep period beginning at 21:30 for approximately eight hours. Although resident astronauts on the ISS have their own quarters, visiting crews have to attach their sleeping bags to spaces on the wall. Because of the microgravity, all astronauts have to strap themselves down, else they might float off and damage equipment.

AVOID DEBRIS
Risk from space debris is quite high at the low altitudes in which the ISS orbits. This space debris is tracked from the ground and the crew are alerted if it approaches the station. In order to avoid the debris, which can cause significant damage to the station, thrusters are used to lower or raise the ISS by about one to two kilometres. In the early days of the station, these Debris Avoidance Maneuvers were quite common, with seven occurring between October 1999 and May 2003. Because of this danger, it was essential for the early crews to be alert and, if necessary, ready to evacuate the ISS at a moment’s notice.
The Krechet-94 was a rear-entry, as opposed to a waist-entry, suit. This meant that the cosmonaut had to enter the suit through a hatch in the back. It was quite common at the time for zippers to be used in space suits, but these would quickly deteriorate and were not reliable. The life-support bad-press was also stored in this hatch, and it could be opened with a lever located near the right elbow.

The Krechet-94’s shoulder joints were developed after much testing and experimenting. The original Krechet had hard shoulder joints, which badly affected the field of vision and mobility. So the Krechet-94 featured soft single-axis shoulder joints, which allowed more freedom. However, mobility was still somewhat limited, so the Soviet lunar lander was fitted with a finger controller that even a suited pilot could use.

After many near misses and several disasters, the Soviet Union wanted to make sure that their cosmonauts were prepared for any eventuality, and that included falling down. This simple metal ‘hula hoop’ type ring on the back of the suit could actually save a cosmonaut’s life. It allowed any solo traveller who fell on his back to roll on his or her side, and then get up on their feet.

The major control panel of the suit was located on the chest. This was designed for ease of use so the cosmonaut could fold it out when needed, then store it flat against the chest when it was not in use. This also ensured that it was always to hand when required. The control panel was similar to modern versions, allowing the cosmonaut to monitor the status of the suit and make adjustments if need be.

This suit featured two snap-down visors, one clear and the other with a gold coating. As well as adding a bit of colour to the dull beige suit, the outer gold visor had an important purpose - its high reflectivity would reflect glares from the sun. Although the Krechet-94 differed from the Apollo space suit in many ways, they both shared this gold visor.

The very first human in space, Yuri Gagarin, had tubes of pureed meat and chocolate in the form of paste to snack on. Cosmonauts in the late 1960s had it a little better, with most food stored in cans and plastic pouches, but drinks and soups were still stored in tubes.

The Krechet-94 was the first semi-rigid spacesuit. The torso was hard and rigid, made from an aluminium alloy, while the legs and arms were made from soft fabric. This design worked well and was employed in a variety of Russian suits from then on. The American Extravehicular Mobility Unit suit also used this design.
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When Queen Elizabeth I drew her last breath on her mammoth 44-year-long reign, Catholics around England let out their own sighs of relief. Life under Elizabeth had not been easy. Perhaps in retaliation to the brutal rule of her sister Mary, the devout Catholic queen, Elizabeth had introduced a range of legislations that hit Catholics hard. She was likely fearful of Catholics, and she had reason to be, as a Papal Bull declared that a Catholic's allegiance was not to the Crown, but to God. In one swift move, every Catholic in England was branded a traitor. Simply being a Catholic, or even sheltering Catholics, was not only illegal but akin to high treason. Terrified, but devoted to their faith, Catholics were forced underground and some 130 priests were executed. As the queen aged, many of the people who had suffered most under her reign began to hope for a successor who would be more sympathetic to their plight.

Considering how much was at stake, the crown passed to its next bearer incredibly smoothly. James I was the grandson of Henry VIII's sister, Margaret, Queen of Scots, and although he was a Protestant, his mother had been a devout Catholic. For the struggling Catholics, King James's early acts to relax the fines that they suffered were very encouraging. However, this joy quickly turned sour. Realising how the fines filled up the treasury, James reinstalled them and openly damned the Catholic faith. The hopes of many Catholics were crushed, and for some, this was the final straw.

If one man had felt the bitter sting of anti-Catholicism in England, it was Robert Catesby. A man from an illustrious family line that stretched back to William Catesby, trusted adviser of Richard III, his entire life he had watched his family's wealth be chipped away by harsh fines. When Catesby was only eight years old, he witnessed his father arrested and tried for harbouring a priest. For the remainder of his young years, his father was constantly in and out of prison. Catesby was tall, handsome and gifted, but he had been forced to drop out of his studies, as obtaining his degree required him to take the oath of supremacy, which swore allegiance to the queen and the Church of England. The Protestant monarchy had taken everything in Catesby's life; his childhood, his father, his fortune and his future.
Catholic Crime & Punishment

Life for Catholics was anything but easy under the Protestant monarchs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Punishment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not attending Anglican service</td>
<td>Initially fined 12 shillings, then raised to £20 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending a private Catholic mass</td>
<td>Imprisonment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not paying fines</td>
<td>Imprisonment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleeting abroad for longer than six months without permission</td>
<td>Forfeit the profits of lands and all goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being a Catholic priest</td>
<td>Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusing to accept the monarch as head of the Church</td>
<td>Imprisonment and death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciling any person to the Catholic church</td>
<td>Death</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A royal warrant suggested that if 'gentler tortures' proved fruitless, Guy Fawkes should be racked.

Catesby possessed not only good looks, but also a generous and affable nature, and as a result, he had amassed a large and powerful circle of friends. His allegiance to the Catholic faith was no secret, and he had taken part in a previous rebellion. When Elizabeth fell ill in 1596, Catesby was arrested simply because the government feared he would take advantage of the situation and organise an uprising. Catesby's experiences typified the lives of all Catholics of the time: he was the beating heart of the Catholic struggle, and he was rich and influential enough to actually do something about it.

Catesby had a plan. Killing the king was not enough; Elizabeth's demise had proved that the death of a monarch did not ensure change. The status quo was against him, so the status quo needed to change. To do this, he would blast it to smithereens. In February 1604, Catesby invited Thomas Wintour and John Wright to his house. Wintour, Catesby's cousin, had also felt the sting of anti-Catholicism as his own uncle had been executed for being a priest. Wright was an old friend of Catesby's and had taken part in a rebellion against Elizabeth. In his house in Lambeth, Catesby revealed his grand plan - he would re-establish Catholicism by blowing up the House of Lords during the opening of Parliament. Not only would the king be present, but also the most powerful Protestants in the land. The attack would produce a power vacuum, and the Catholics would be poised to fill it.

Understandably, Wintour was shocked by his cousin's plans. He was quick to argue that, should they fail, it would put back their cause several years. Catesby responded: "The nature of the disease requires so sharp a remedy." He launched into an impassioned speech about the righteousness of his cause, and how Parliament was the perfect target as "in that place they have done us all the mischief." Catesby's natural charisma quickly won around his cousin, who pledged his loyalty and life to the impassioned leader.

Catesby had recruited his first co-conspirators, and more were to follow. Seeking support from the Catholic Spain, Wintour travelled to Flanders. Although he struggled to obtain Spanish support, while there he sought out the man who was fated to become the face of the gunpowder plot - Guy Fawkes. Fawkes had made his Catholic allegiance very clear by fighting on the side of Spain during the Eighty Years' War and had been attempting to drum up support in the country. He was tall, well built with a mop of thick red-brown hair, and he was also determined, driven and skilled in all matters of war. However, there was one of Fawkes's talents that attracted Catesby in particular - his proficiency and knowledge of gunpowder.

When the men met again at the Duck and Drake Inn, they had drafted another conspirator, Thomas Percy, a dear friend of Catesby's. Percy had a reputation as a wild and rebellious youth. He had attempted to build a strong relationship with James I for the good of his religion, but now felt the bitter sting of betrayal. Percy, on a previous occasion, had to be stopped by Catesby from storming into the palace and taking down the king single handedly. Together, these five passionate and wronged men met in the Catholic safe house and Catesby outlined the plan. Percy's support was almost a given, and he proclaims: "Shall we always, gentlemen, talk and never do anything?" Swayed either by their enigmatic leader or their own hatred of Protestants, the five men swore an oath of secrecy upon a bible and received the Holy Communion from a priest secretly celebrating mass, completely unaware that the men were planning regicide.

With his first co-conspirators in place, Catesby sprung into action. The opening of Parliament had
In the years following Henry VIII’s break from Rome, the religion of the reigning monarch swung from Protestant to Catholic, with devastating effects for their subjects.
The conspirators

Each with his own motive for treason

Thomas Bates
1587-1606
Role: Catesby's servant
Born in Warwickshire, Bates was employed as Catesby's servant and was seen as a hard-working and loyal man. Due to his close proximity to Catesby, he became suspicious of his unusual activity and was invited into the plot. He became a useful accomplice – as an ordinary man he could perform many actions without arousing suspicion.

Robert Wintour
1558-1606
Role: Financial support
The oldest Wintour brother, Robert inherited the majority of his father's estate, including Huddington Court. Through marriage, Robert aligned himself to a strong Catholic family, and his home became a refuge for priests.

Christopher Wright
1570-1606
Role: Conspirator
The younger of the Wright brothers, Christopher was described as taller, fatter and fairer than John. A private and discreet man, since his conversion he was fully committed to the Catholic faith, and took part in the same rebellion as his brother and Catesby.

John Wright
1568-1606
Role: Original conspirator
The older of the two Wright brothers, John was a school friend of Guy Fawkes and was thrown in prison for taking part in rebellions. With a reputation as a brave, loyal and skilled swordsman, he converted to Catholicism and became associated with Catesby.
Thomas Percy
1560-1605
Role: Logistics
Percy had a reputation as a wild youth, having possibly abandoned his wife and killed a Scotsman in a skirmish. When Percy converted to Catholicism, it helped to calm some of his more rebellious ways, funneling his fiery nature into bettering the Catholic cause in England.

Guy Fawkes
1570-1606
Role: Explosives expert
Born in York, Fawkes lost his father at a young age, and when his mother married a Catholic, he converted to the faith. He fought for Spain in the Eighty Years’ War, and adopted the Italian form of his name ‘Guido’. He was furiously opposed to James I, describing him and all of Scotland as heretics.

Robert Catesby
1573-1605
Role: Leader
The only surviving son of Sir William Catesby, Robert Catesby gained a reputation as a Catholic sympathiser after taking part in a rebellion in hopes of usurping the queen. Desperate to reclaim Catholic power, Catesby concocted a plot that would require the co-operation of only a few trusted men but was capable of destroying Protestant power in England.

Thomas Wintour
1571-1606
Role: Original co-conspirator
Thomas Wintour was intelligent, witty and well educated. He fought against Catholic Spain, but his views quickly changed and he became a faithful Catholic. Thomas travelled to Spain in an attempt to drum up support, also known as the Spanish treason, but his success was lacking and he was driven to other, more drastic methods.
been postponed until 5 November the following year due to plague. This gave him plenty of time to prepare everything. Initially, Catesby figured the best way to get the gunpowder beneath the House of Lords would be to dig a tunnel, but the men soon realized a safer way was to lease one of the storerooms that lay beneath. Luckily, Percy had a business in London, so could easily lease a storeroom without attracting suspicion. Explosives expert Guy Fawkes posed as John Johnson, Percy’s servant, and was placed in the premises. The conspirators stored the gunpowder in Catesby’s house and gradually ferried it across the Thames into the dwelling under the cover of darkness.

Steadily, more and more men were drafted into the conspiracy, as it proved impossible for five men alone to handle such grand plans. Catesby’s servant, Bates, became suspicious, and his master had no option but to recruit him. Robert Keyes, Robert Wintour, John Grant and Christopher Wright were also all inducted. Not only were they all passionate Catholics, but many possessed large fortunes and manor houses that would certainly aid the cause.

Secretly, Catesby was worried. He wasn’t a terrorist motivated by blind revenge, he was a moral and religious man, and he wanted to be sure that what he was doing was right. Struggling with his conscience, he repeatedly visited two priests. Father Henry Garnet and Oswald Testimon. Catesby had no doubts that the king was guilty, but he worried about the innocent people who would inevitably be killed in the blast. He asked if this could be excused: was it okay to kill innocents for the greater good? Sworn to the law of confession, Garnet could tell no one of Catesby’s plot, but he attempted to dissuade him.

Despite the priests’ warnings, Catesby continued bringing gunpowder into the storage hold. He also began to make plans for the second part of their scheme. Eager to maintain some order after the king’s death, he decided that James’s child, Princess Elizabeth, would be put in place as his successor. At only eight years old he believed she could be moulded into the figurehead they desired. Elizabeth was also located not in London but in Coombe Abbey near Coventry. In order to make sure this final stage went off without a hitch, Catesby recruited his final three conspirators. Ambrose Rookwood, Everard Digby and Francis Tresham.

By October, everything was in place. Fawkes would remain in London and light the fuse, before escaping the city and travelling to Europe to drum up support. Meanwhile, in the subsequent madness, a revolt would break out in the Midlands and Elizabeth would be captured. Catesby seemed to have recovered from his earlier concern, but the same could not be said of his co-conspirators. A number of the men had friends in Parliament who were fellow Catholics. Late in the evening on 26 October, a letter arrived at the house of one of these fellow Catholics: Lord Monteagle, a man who had, in his youth, played a part in a fair number of Catholic plots himself. The contents of the letter were shocking. It warned him to abstain from attending Parliament on 5 November, as “they shall receive a terrible blow, this Parliament.”

As the plot was uncovered, the men fled their separate ways, clinging to hope of revolution.

**Evening**

4 November

Westminster

Catesby, John Wright and Bates decide that the plot will go ahead, despite the discovery that a warning letter was sent to Monteagle, and begin setting out towards the Midlands.

**Night**

4 November

Parliament vaults

The king’s men search the vaults under Parliament. They stumble upon Fawkes standing by a pile of wood, who informs them his name is John Johnson, and that he works for Thomas Percy.

**Late night**

4 November

Parliament vaults

Under the king’s orders, the men return to the vault and find Fawkes dressed ready for a getaway. He is immediately arrested, and taken to the king in the early hours of 5 November.

**Morning**

5 November

Westminster

Christopher Wright learns of the plot’s discovery and rushes to the Duck and Drake Inn to inform Thomas Wintour. Wintour warns those still in London – Percy, Keyes and Rookwood.

**Midday**

5 November

Near Milton Keynes

Rookwood rides furiously for two hours and manages to catch up with Catesby and the others to warn them of the plot’s failure and Fawkes’s arrest. They decide to continue on to Dunchurch.

**6pm**

5 November

Ashby StLedgers

The six fleeing conspirators meet with Robert Wintour, then continue on and meet with Digby, who is accompanied by a hunting party. They continue west to Warwick.
Very aware of how serious this threat could be, Monteagle alerted the Earl of Salisbury. News of the letter quickly found its way back to Catesby, and Tresham was immediately suspected, as Monteagle was his brother-in-law. Catesby and Thomas Wintour furiously confronted the new recruit, threatening to hang him for his idiocy, but Tresham was able to convince his fiery leader of his innocence. However, Catesby was unwilling to listen to Tresham's urges to abandon the plot - he was too committed. Risks be damned, the plot would go ahead as planned.

Meanwhile, the king had learned of the mysterious letter. Unlike many of his advisers, he took the warning very seriously. However, he decided to bide his time until the night in question, and see if the conspirators would carry out their alleged plot. When 4 November dawned, both the king and Catesby leapt into action. Catesby, with John Wright and Bates, left for the Midlands to launch the second part of the plan, while Fawkes prepared for his pivotal part.

The king was preparing too. James's men were searching all the buildings around Parliament for signs of anything suspicious. It was in the cellar during one of these searches that they stumbled upon Fawkes. Dressed as a serving man, he stood before a large, suspicious pile of firewood. He explained that he was a servant of Percy, though came across rather desperate. Apprehensive but not willing to upset him further, the men left to report their findings to the king. As soon as James heard Percy's name, he was suspicious, and ordered another search of the cellar.

Everything now rested with Fawkes. The plot had failed, that much was obvious, but if he held out long enough, the lives of his friends could be saved. As Fawkes was questioned, he displayed remarkable courage in the face of almost certain death. He stuck by his story that he was indeed John Johnson. However, he did not for a moment deny his intentions, proclaiming that it was his plan to destroy the king and Parliament. When
The Gunpowder Plot

The Gunpowder conspiracy
Was the plot really a state conspiracy?

The mystery
Much of the suspicion surrounding the plot has involved, in some part, the role of the Earl of Salisbury. It was Salisbury who Montague alerted upon receiving the letter, and his peculiar actions have prompted many to ponder if he had more knowledge of the plot than he let on. First of all, he failed to immediately inform the king of the plot, who was out hunting and did not return for several days. Salisbury’s involvement in the plot actually began before the letter even arrived, as he was aware that something was being planned. When the king did learn of the letter, Salisbury denied this knowledge completely, and allowed the king to take full credit. This may have been a clever political play, but perhaps it hints at more.

The motive
The foiling of the plot benefited the king immensely. The feeling of goodwill towards the monarch encouraged Parliament to grant astonishingly high subsidies for the king, and the thanks for this lay at Salisbury’s feet. An ambitious man, Salisbury expertly exploited the situation to garner favour with the monarch, and also allowed him to introduce more anti-Catholic legislation. Salisbury’s anti-Catholic feelings far outweighed the monarch’s, and he wished to rid England of the religion once and for all.

His involvement
Conspiracy theorists summarise that Salisbury may have invented the entire plot himself, targeting known Catholic agitators and penning the letter to Montague. Others argue that instead of inventing it, Salisbury infiltrated the plot far earlier than the letter reveals, and simply allowed it to continue, knowing that he could use it later to fuel the fire of anti-Catholicism.

Evidence
The ease in which the conspirators conducted the plot is the main evidence here. The fact that they were able to get 36 barrels of gunpowder in a country where gunpowder was strictly controlled by the government and store them under the Houses of Parliament would have been very difficult. However, the lack of any other evidence makes this conspiracy impossible to prove. If Salisbury invented the plot, it is unlikely all the men would have confessed to the crime, knowing that death would be the result. The more likely conclusion is that Salisbury was a quick thinking opportunist, who, upon uncovering the truth, exploited the situation for all that it was worth.

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Digby headed for the authorities; Bates, Littleton and Robert Wintour also made their escape. Eventually, all who remained were Catesby, Percy, Thomas Wintour, the Wright brothers, a wounded Rookwood, and Grant, who had been blinded by the fire. Miserable and broken, when the 200 armed government men descended on the group on 8 November, the fugitives had no hope of mounting a defence. The fight was brief: Wintour was shot first followed by the Wright brothers and Rookwood. Catesby and Percy managed to summon the last embers of their fiery zeal and made a final stand together at the door. When they fell, it was as one, by a single bullet. On the edge of death and bleeding out, Catesby used his final ounce of strength to drag himself to a photo of the Virgin Mary, and cradling it in his arms, breathed his last. The men who died at the house - Catesby, Percy and the Wright brothers - were lucky. Those who remained were rounded up, arrested and thrown in prison. Under threat of torture, all of the men admitted their involvement in the plot. Before the trials even began, the verdict was a foregone conclusion. The men were paraded up and jeered at by a furious audience. The conspirators had no defence, so could only utter their own pleas for mercy. Rookwood in particular spoke for all the men when he said he was “neither actor nor author,” and had acted out of blind devotion to their ringleader - Catesby, “whom he loved above any worldly man.”

The people didn’t care how charismatic their leader was. They wanted blood, and they were going to get it. The men were declared guilty of treason, and on a chilly 30 January, the first four faced their punishment. They were dragged through the street strapped to a wooden panel on the back of a horse. Then, the men were stripped down to their shirts and their heads placed in a noose. They were briefly hung, but cut down while still breathing so they could experience the pain of having their genitals cut off and burned before their eyes. The bowels and the heart were then removed, and the bodies cut into pieces and displayed for the birds to pick at. The bodies of Catesby and Percy were also decapitated, and their heads exhibited as a grim warning. Only one man, the final to face punishment, managed to escape the pain of castration and disembowelling - Guy Fawkes, broken and barely able to stand, used his final ounce of strength to leap from the gallows and break his neck, dying instantly. The plan had been a disastrous failure, and the unearthing of such a dangerous Catholic plot that almost ended in tragedy did little to help the lives of Catholics in England. Although James was quick to make it clear that he did not blame all Catholics in his nation, strict laws against them were soon implemented. True Catholic emancipation would take a further 200 years, and the men who had schemed, fought and died for it would live on only in legend and rhyme.
**Did you know?**
The French army used helicopters to pursue and attack FLN guerrilla units -- a strategy that was later adopted by the USA in Vietnam.

**Timeline**

1 NOVEMBER 1954
- Between midnight and 2am, FLN guerrillas attack 30 military and police targets in French Algeria, killing seven. It becomes known as Red All-Saints' Day.

23 AUGUST 1955
- A failed attack on Philippeville is the first time civilians are targeted by the FLN.

30 SEPTEMBER 1956
- Three bombs explode in Algiers, starting a year-long FLN guerrilla campaign in the capital. The French loses control but are criticised for their brutal methods.

13 MAY 1958
- A coup d'etat in Algiers leads to Charles de Gaulle becoming the new leader of France. He offers a more conciliatory approach to the FLN.
Bluffer’s Guide
THE ALGERIAN WAR

What was it?
The Algerian War was part of the Algerian nationalist campaign headed by the National Liberation Front (FLN) seeking freedom from France. It was a bad-tempered conflict marked by guerrilla warfare, acts of terrorism and torture. The FLN targeted civilians who refused to back them, while the French authorities retaliated with torture and assassination. The war was a military defeat for the FLN - the French army was left in control of the region and Algerian leaders were killed - but the conflict alienated the government in Paris and led to the fall of the Fourth Republic. The new French president, Charles de Gaulle, surprised many when he opened negotiations with the Algerian nationalists. The resulting agreement, the Evian Accords, was ratified in both war-weary France and Algeria in 1962. Algeria had won independence, but it wasn’t the end of the fighting - many Algerians who supported the French were later abducted, tortured or murdered, and 800,000 ‘Pied-Noir’ Algerians with European ancestry were evacuated to France.

Why did it happen?
The Algerian War was part of the wave of decolonisation that occurred after World War II. Algerian nationalists began to stir, demanding independence. However, Algeria’s situation was unusual in that it was not classed as a colony, but an integral region of France, meaning French leaders were unwilling to let Algeria secede. The Sétif Massacre in 1945 was a turning point in relations - French authorities and vigilantes killed about 6,000 Algerians following unrest. The FLN was formed in 1954, including an armed wing. It hoped to replicate the success of French Indochina, which ejected France the same year. Over the next two years, other Algerian nationalist movements became subsumed into the FLN, making it a powerful movement that offered a real threat to French control.

Who was involved?
Larbi Ben M’hidi
1923-57
A prominent figure in the FLN at the outbreak of war, M’hidi was killed in captivity by French soldiers.

Charles de Gaulle
1890-1970
Expected to back French control in Algeria, de Gaulle instead brought about a negotiated end to the war.

Ferhat Abbas
1899-1985
Abbas was persuaded to join the cause after initially opposing it. He acted as a figurehead leader, beginning dialogue with France.
GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

BLITZ KIDS

Torn away from their families or kept at home in cities pummelled by bombs, children were forced to face the merciless might of Nazi Germany.

Written by David Crookes
By 6 September 1940, Britain had been in the grip of war against Nazi Germany for just over a year, and things were not going well. France had fallen in June and the Luftwaffe had been directly assaulting airfields, factories and shipping in Britain. But while an invasion seemed likely, the chief of the air staff's 1939 prediction - of a bombardment of civilian targets in London causing 175,000 casualties in the first 24 hours - had not materialised. There was relative calm on the streets. Then on 7 September 1940, that all changed.

The Blitz, as it became known, was an all-out attack that started in London and spread to other cities across the United Kingdom. It continued for eight months, one week and two days, and aimed to test the resolve of the British public in the cruellest and most devastating of ways. 159 major air raids were conducted, and 31,822 tons of bombs were dropped. On 14 November 1940, 500 Luftwaffe bombers almost wiped Coventry off the map as it sought to destroy the city's munitions factories. On 29 December 1940, 1,400 fires raged across London following the heaviest night of Blitz bombing. St Paul's Cathedral was miraculously left standing.

The bombs left millions of homes destroyed and 42,000 civilians dead. They also had a profound effect on the nation's children, whether they had been sent away to the homes of strangers in the countryside or abroad, or were spending nights huddled with their families in cramped air-raid shelters. Playground friends would be killed or injured; mothers would be maimed. Babies would gasp their last breaths and children would see limbs in the most unusual of places, having been propelled by a blast. Gas masks were as much an accessory as smartphones are for youngsters today.

At the same time, the children also came to have greater freedom and responsibilities than they had ever previously experienced. They acted as comforters, worked side by side with adults in assisting the war effort; broadened their minds in new environments and became skilful in household tasks. They learned to cope with the harsh realities of rationing (which severely cut down the number of sweets they could eat) and they had to prove resourceful.

When the Blitz ended on 21 May 1941 and the evacuees returned, life began returning to some normality, although air raids continued. In 1944, Hitler unleashed a second Blitz, this time using his secret weapons: the V1 and V2 flying bombs. The first V1 fell on 13 June 1941 and London suburbs began suffering greatly. Juvenile crime also rose and police blamed it on the returning evacuees wanting to have fun by smashing up and playing on bomb-damaged properties. There was no denying the impact the Blitz had on Britain's children - and the impact the children had on Blitzed Britain.
by the time the Luftwaffe began raining bombs from the air on 7 September 1940, millions of children had already been evacuated from British cities to the safety of the countryside or abroad. The British government had acted some four days before it declared war on Germany, issuing an order on 31 August 1939 at 11.07am to “evacuate forthwith.”

The evacuation was codenamed Operation Pied Piper and, during the first few days alone, 735,000 unaccompanied British children and 426,500 mothers with children were being moved as a precaution against a possible German invasion. It was an audacious plan, and had been in the making for more than a year. In 1938, children were issued with gas masks and London County Council put its own evacuation plan into action, moving nursery children and disabled people when Germany threatened to invade Czechoslovakia. By July 1939, residents had been privately leaving the capital, but those were mere trickles in comparison.

While evacuation was voluntary, the many leaflets and public information films proved persuasive, and children were sent to gather at their schools where they were handed identity labels. Some were taken on double-decker buses and many were marched to railway stations, each child carrying their gas mask and a few personal possessions, ready to begin their journeys on one of the 1,500 special trains that had been laid on.

There were harrowing scenes. Young children cried for their parents while their mothers screamed instructions for the children to look after themselves. Siblings clung tightly to each other while the 100,000 teachers that were sent with the children tried to keep spirits high with bursts of song.

Older children were more excited and saw the trip as an adventure. They would mock the frightened younger ones for crying, and their exuberance led reporters to write about Operation Pied Piper as a largely positive experience.

When the children reached their countryside destination, they were either taken to a sizeable venue - typically a village hall - or driven from house to house. Potential foster parents would cast their eyes over the youngsters and decide who they wanted. Usually, the most presentable children were taken first, and children who insisted on being accompanied by a sibling were often rejected. An emergency order meant that evacuees had to be housed in spare bedrooms, so some foster parents were forced to take children in. As a result, amid the happy recollections of being sent away were tales of beatings, enforced work and neglect. Operation Pied Piper was also a culture shock for many foster parents and children.

But the evacuations saved countless lives. Although large numbers of children returned home at the beginning of 1940 when the expected bombardment failed to materialise, the falling of France on 15 June 1940 prompted a second wave of evacuations. Even more moved away in September when it became clear the Blitz attack was to be relentless. It was not without its heartache, though. On 18 September 1940, a Nazi U-boat sank a liner taking evacuees to Canada, killing 83 children.

Bombs tore apart key cities including London, Coventry, Manchester and Swansea. Had all of the evacuated children remained behind, the death toll would have been much higher and the strain on the air-raid shelters immense. The plan may have had a curious name - the fictional Pied Piper of Hamelin lured children away never to be seen again - but it ensured the majority would eventually return safe and well.
Many of the children would not have fully understood why they were being evacuated from cities to rural locations.

In the period between the first wave of evacuations and the Blitz, many evacuees returned home, but the government urged parents to keep them out of the cities.
Hundreds of thousands of children were not evacuated from the cities, as their families decided it was preferable for them to stay together during the onslaught. It wasn't such a bad idea, as there was evidence following the war that it had actually proved better for them than being moved into the country (Penny Starns writes in her book *Blitz Families: The Children Who Stayed Behind* of children growing taller and more robust in the cities than in the country. She says they were less depressed, more emotionally stable and enjoyed the moments of family intimacy the air raids brought).

**WHERE TO SEEK SHELTER IN AN AIR RAID**

### Anderson shelter
- **Available for free to anyone earning less than £260 a year,** these shelters were incredibly sturdy safe havens that were ideal for anyone with enough land.
- **Cost:** Families had to build them and they were no deterrent against a direct hit. They were also cold, damp and very cramped. They were liable to flood.

### London Underground
- **Warm and deep enough underground to keep the thousands of people who used them safe from bombs; there were beds and entertainment.**
- **Cost:** It initially cost a penny to go down to the sweltering platform and jostle for a position amid hundreds of people. Could be unsanitary.

### Basement
- **People in larger houses could reinforce their cellars with girders and planks.** They could be warm and spacious and some even became shelters for public use.
- **Cost:** If the house collapsed through a direct hit, the rubble on top could make escaping the basement difficult. Gas proofing was also advisable.

### Morrison shelter
- **These were heavy steel cages that could be used indoors, ensuring there were warm places for up to three people to sleep in. They were also easy to access.**
- **Cost:** Claustrophobic and hot, and some people felt they looked untidy, ineffective against direct hits and if a house collapsed, the residents could be trapped.

### Public shelter
- **Built from March 1940, these offered protection for people who were nowhere near home during an air raid. Some tunnels were built into sandstone cliffs in Stockport.**
- **Cost:** The cheap and hurried construction of many shelters meant they were not bomb proof. One flooded, drowning many. There was also evidence of anti-social behaviour.

### Railway arches
- **Built out of brick and very strong, existing railway arches could shelter thousands of people.** Sand bags or large physical barriers would protect against blasts.
- **Cost:** The Nazis would target railways, so the possibility of a direct hit was increased. Some had effective toilet facilities.
It didn't help that call-ups to the armed forces were ripping families apart, but efforts were nevertheless made to keep children occupied. The movie industry continued and cinemas proved attractive, as did youth clubs. For the most part, though, children made their own entertainment, playing in side streets and parks. They would collect shrapnel and compare their finds. Plane spotting was also a popular hobby, with the excitement of seeing Spitfires and Hurricanes or aerial dogfights being a particular treat. But as the air-raid sirens wailed and the Luftwaffe dropped bomb after bomb, danger was never far away. Cities burned and the skies choked with smoke. Night virtually turned to day in the flicker of the flames and it was both frightening and fascinating for young minds. Orphans were created in seconds and life was entirely disrupted. Each night, families would desperately seek protection within cramped Anderson shelters. In London, thousands headed to the Underground, buying tickets and piling on to the platforms even as the trains shunted past. Some stations were closed and children would bed down in the track area. They would scream as the bombs shook the ground and shudder as rats clambered over their small bodies.

Older children tried to lead as normal a life as possible - a prime example of the infamous 'Blitz Spirit' - and it wasn't unusual for them to dice with danger and walk the battered streets. Away from the arguments that often raged within the shelters, as hormonal and tired teens resented the restrictions placed upon them, the adventurous explorers would encounter the bodies of those killed by falling bombs or spraying debris. Some brave young souls insisted on sleeping in their own homes, preferring to risk their lives rather than huddle with strangers in dark and smelly places devoid of even the most basic of toilet facilities.

When those homes were destroyed, the children would have to move. Families were constantly seeking new places to live, but even in transit, there was danger. Trains and buses would be targeted and there were tales of children being fired at in the streets from above. The Nazi bombers were unflinching and determined to pummel the British into submission, and children would become, understandably, bitter about the enemy. For if the cities in which they lived were being altered before their eyes, then their transition to adulthood was proving just as rapid. During eight months of the first Blitz, 5,028 children were killed.
Girl Guides work on their hospital allotment to produce vegetables—

Currah
Home town: Stockton
Age during the Blitz: 15
Brief bio: Ken Currah was a Boy Scout who was briefly evacuated from his home in Stockton to the Scarborough coast. He spent most of the war in Teesside.

What was it like in the Boy Scouts during the war?
It was interesting. I ran the Scout troop at the age of 15 for a while until the local association found out and stopped me because I was too young to get a warrant. We would help the local community, getting shopping for older people who struggled to leave the house and things like that.

Did you directly help the war effort?
We had paper collections. Paper was never thrown away and it became one of the salvaged items at the start of the war. The Scouts helped to collect it. There was a photograph of me on top of a mountain of newspapers in the Northern Echo. The Scouts also collected pots and pans from housewives, which were melted down and used for aircraft. Recycling became ingrained in you because of the shortage of everything.

Did you also trained in first aid?
I was. We had to do so much first aid. One of the badges to take to become a first-class Scout was the ambulance badge. I took the exam and passed. I didn’t have to use the skills luckily because we didn’t get the air raids that the country got elsewhere.

Comics were popular among children during the Blitz but the humorous strips contained some serious messages. Popular papers including The Dandy carried propaganda that deliberately made fools of the Axis leaders. While children enjoyed the hapless adventures of Musso, Addie and Hermy, they were being encouraged to support the Home Guard, ensure blackouts were adhered to and to collect waste paper for recycling. “If you keep waste paper saving going with a swing,” The Beano said alongside a drawn image of Adolf Hitler in a noose, “maybe you’ll soon see Hitler swing!”

Waste paper collections, along with scrap metal salvage, were important during a period when supplies were limited. Children would gather what they could find and it allowed them to feel they were doing their bit for the war effort. But this was just the tip of the iceberg, as children carried out a host of essential duties. From Girl Guides and Boy Scouts to children working alongside Air Raid Precautions (ARP) and the Home Guard, they effectively formed their own army of mini-helpers.

Guides collected various items such as jam jars as well as lots of money. But, as Janie Hampton’s book How The Guides Won The War explains, they also kept up morale by singing songs in bomb shelters, which quickly became known as Blackout Blues. They assisted families in digging their own shelters and knitted warm clothes for those who needed them. Guides helped children understand how to fit their gas masks and, as Sean Longden notes in Blitz Kids, they even went as far as converting canvas latrine cubicles into gas decontamination facilities.

Like the Guides, the Boy Scouts helped to build air-raid shelters and administer first aid. They would also stretcher people injured by falling bombs and they would unload ambulances and take patients to specific wards. Scouts would nimbly cycle at speed to deliver messages and they’d work with the firemen to put out fires. It could be horrific work, with older children collecting the bodies of those killed during the raids and seeing some horrific injuries that no level of first-aid training could patch up. But their sense of pride was evident throughout.

Since many fathers had gone to war, the children were keen to assist. Many of them had, in a sense, become the temporary heads of their households and the confidence it gave them meant they would take on life-risking, dangerous work without a
A Scout helps to keep up the morale of evacuated children in Hertfordshire (1941)

Girl Guides take tea to demolition workers in Canterbury after the town is hit by air raids

second thought. Guides who had achieved their Pathfinder badges would navigate the dark streets at night and show people how they could get to a shelter - an act of kindness and selfless duty that could have resulted in them being killed or maimed by a bomb or blast. Boys and girls were also called upon to smother or move thermite incendiary bombs. Such devices were a favourite of the Luftwaffe, and they were often dropped in batches of about 72, producing devastating fires that tore entire areas apart if left alone.

Alan Wilkin was 16 when he tackled an incendiary bomb in 1941, and he suffered permanent chest injuries as a result. His bravery was rewarded with one of Scouting's highest awards, the Gilt Cross, but he was not alone. Charity Bick was a 14-year-old civilian dispatch rider who claimed to be 16 in order to join the ARP in West Bromwich. When the town was bombed in 1940, she put out an incendiary bomb with her father but fell through the roof they were on top of and injured herself. She borrowed a bike, dodged further dangers and delivered messages to the control room. She was awarded the George Medal for bravery, becoming the youngest person to ever receive it.

Scores of children lied about their age to join the volunteer ARP (or the Civil Defence Service, as it became known) as well as the Home Guard and the armed forces. Recruiters often just turned a blind eye, having been impressed by their enthusiasm and patriotism. The Home Guard became a way of training youngsters before conscription and the ARP's wardens appreciated having extra pairs of eyes as children clambered onto school roofs to act as spotters, sped along on bikes delivering messages from one ARP post to another, and even set up their own assistive child divisions.

At any time, their families could have been affected or their homes bombed. In their minds, though, the task at hand was the most important thing and they would often stop at nothing to achieve their objective. The children may have had unconventional childhoods, but their involvement in the war effort helped shape their future lives.

FIND OUT MORE A free exhibition featuring more than 200 objects, sound recordings, film clips, artworks and photographs from the Imperial War Museum's national collections is taking place in Manchester. Horrible Histories: Blitz Brits is running in the special exhibitions gallery of the Imperial War Museum North until Spring 2016. Go to www.iwm.org.uk for more details.
Legendary filmmaker Walt Disney blazed a trail for what feel-good film and TV entertainment could be. In his lifetime and beyond, he became the subject of criticisms that remind us of his human frailty.

Written by James Clarke

Walt Disney's life as an artist and an industrialist embodied many of the contradictions and successes of what the American publisher Henry Luce dubbed 'The American Century.' For all of the fun-loving entertainment produced by Walt's studio, and its often hugely accomplished application of technology to the art and craft of storytelling, it's important to recognise that a man, with all-too-human frailties and shortcomings was at the centre of things. Walt became both a symbol of creative energy and ambition, as well as a reminder of how life's complications inevitably shape us as individuals.

Walt Disney was born in 1901 in Chicago and was raised on a farm in Marceline, Missouri. The Disney family then moved to Kansas City in 1911, and it was in that year that lightning struck: Walt discovered the joy of watching movies and was soon entranced by how to make pictures move. As Walt's teenage years advanced, so too did tensions in Europe, and the young cartoonist found himself in France, serving on the battlefields.

Returning home from World War I, Walt settled back into daily life, and in 1920, he and his associate and friend Ub Iwerks took jobs at the Kansas Slide Company. In his own free time, Walt began producing advertising and short animated films. He moved quickly; by 1922, he had established Laugh-O-Gram Films, and in 1923, he moved to Hollywood, where the film industry had begun to prove itself as a viable industry producing and selling well-told stories to a global audience.

In Hollywood, Walt and his brother Roy established Disney Brothers Studio; their earliest project was producing a series of Alice Comedies that combined live action and animation. Critically, in 1924, Walt shifted from being an artist to being a director and ultimately a producer, and his old pal, Ub Iwerks, returned to the fold as an employee. Ub would be vital to Walt's earliest movies. Indeed, over the decades, criticism had
been directed at Walt for not having sufficiently credited, or more publicly acknowledged, those that he collaborated with so successfully. Animation historian Michael Barrier writes of Walt that “what made him different, and so much more exciting and interesting than most entrepreneurs, was that he emerged as an artist through realising his ambitions for his business.” One way to understand Walt, then, is as somebody who orchestrated the contributions of others towards the creation of a film project, and he was justly celebrated.

Creative and commercial success was hard won for the Disney brothers. In 1927, with the cartoon character Oswald the Lucky Rabbit proving very popular, the brothers found themselves having to sell the rights to the character in order to protect the longer-term life of the company. Suddenly, they were without a character design identifiable with the company, and so they were compelled to develop a new character with which to replace Oswald. What had seemed a catastrophe had a very happy ending and Mickey Mouse was drawn to life. In 1928, Mickey debuted in the landmark film *Steamboat Willie*, which established Mickey's hugely appealing personality and was the first animated film with synchronous sound. This short film would lead on to Disney's eventual feature film breakthrough of *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs* in 1937.

For all of the upbeat entertainment that Walt produced, it's rather jarring to consider the degree of material that's been generated around his contradictions. Walt has been deemed to have been anti-Semitic, yet Jewish artists worked at his studio, he made financial contributions to Jewish charities and was granted the Man of the Year Award from the Jewish organisation B'nai B'rith in 1955. 

Staying with issues around racial and ethnic sensitivities, it is reasonable to consider a particularly well-known project that's informed by Walt's less progressive attitudes. In 1946, Disney released the controversial feature film *Song Of The South* (1946), an adaptation of the *Uncle Remus* stories of Joel Chandler Harris. Certainly, from our 21st-century viewpoint, we can look with reservation at the movie and recognise the film's perpetuation of caricatures and stereotypes of black people. Even at the time of the film's original release, the NAACP objected to the film and the last time that the Disney studio released *Song Of The South* was more than 20 years ago, in 1991. It looks unlikely to be re-released in the future.

Certainly, it can be useful to consider the ways in which the personal is political and the political is personal, and in the USA in the 1940s and 1950s, this complex dynamic churned away in various forms - notably in terms of actions and reactions towards the perceived threat of communism. In 1947, *The New York Times* ran a story proclaiming "Disney Denounces Communists." Walt's decision to express concern in this way about the political left in Hollywood was the result of a watershed event reaching back to 1941. In that year, Walt's liberal sympathies gave way to a more strident, right-of-centre political view. His staff went on strike as part of their move to become unionised in order to more effectively protest for better wages. Furthermore, the record suggests that part of the strike was motivated by some of Disney's artists feeling that their contributions were not duly recognised or identified. Walt abhorred this
Walt and Ward Kimball, one of Disney's lead animators, at the studio in 1939 during production of Pinocchio.

unionising effort, arguably considering it more as a personal affront than a political and ideological one. Indeed, Walt was so frustrated by the strike that in July 1941, he ran an advert in the film industry trade paper Variety that made it clear he believed communist agitators had motivated the strike. In the years after 1941, Walt considered the strike to have prompted a significant fracture within the studio and his concerns seem to have certainly tied in with a wider public concern about traditional American values being compromised by both communism and fascism. In 1944, Walt found and was co-president of the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals (MPA). In that same year, the Council of Hollywood Guilds and Unions was formed, and deemed the MPA as a threat to democratic free speech in film. Quite quickly, the wider public's sympathy was with the Council rather than with the MPA.

Walt oversaw his studio at a time when only men worked as animators. This was common practice at the time for animation companies in North America and certainly Walt has been criticised for not providing women equal opportunities in the workplace. However, a speech that Walt made in February 1941 to his employees contains the following statement that suggests a recognition of a changing workplace: "If a woman can do the work as well, she is worth as much as a man. The girl artists have the right to expect the same chances for advancement as men, and I honestly believe they may eventually contribute something to this business that men never could or would."

Culturally conservative, Walt was a man of immense creative capacity. He was a true American entrepreneur who was excited by technological innovation and mass communication, displaying a fairly dazzling facility with organising and industrialising animation production. Walt understood how entertainment could enrich people's lives. However, his essentially conservative and traditionally minded attitudes do complicate the picture, suggesting that here was a man who, while being a captain of the American creative industry, found himself increasingly grappling with a forward-thinking post-World War II world.

“In 1924, Walt shifted from being an artist to being a director and ultimately a producer, and his old pal, Ub Iwerks, returned to the fold.”

Was Walt Disney a hero or a villain? Let us know what you think.

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STALIN'S GREAT TERROR

Soviet Union 1936-38

Sergei Kirov, member of the Bolshevik party and close friend of Joseph Stalin, has been murdered in cold blood. The events surrounding his assassination are suspicious, with hints that Stalin himself may have played a part, but regardless of who is responsible, it has plunged the Soviet Union into a dark and bloody era of terror.

Stalin, convinced that his own downfall is being plotted, has launched the Great Purge - the systematic oppression and persecution of basically anyone he regards as suspect. The Soviet Union has suffered purges before, but this is different: with no clear boundaries of who is a target, absolutely anyone could find themselves arrested, imprisoned and even killed. The Soviet secret police, the NKVD, prowl the streets to sniff out anyone who endangers the status quo. Ordinary men and women live in constant fear of a single slip up, while the unlucky ones are carted off in the night, thrown into a dark cell, worked to death in a Gulag camp, or lined up against a wall and shot.

Dos & Don'ts

- Turn up to work on time.
- Praise Stalin. Everyone is required to do so - newspapers credit him with every success and people applaud every time his name is uttered.
- Avoid crime of any kind. Even the smallest offences can see you sent to the Gulag. Petty theft is seen as stealing state property, carrying a ten-year sentence.
- Keep your morals. In an era this dark and dangerous, it can be easy to lose hope, but you absolutely do not want to become part of the problem. Remain true to yourself.
- Say anything bad about Stalin, laugh at a joke at his expense or read anti-Stalinist literature. You never know who is watching you.
- Show off any remarkable talents you may possess. Intellectuals are a target and seen as a threat.
- Get on anyone's bad side. Annoying a neighbour could get you turned in to the NKVD and arrested, never to be seen again.
- Bother trying to escape elsewhere. If you're on their list, they will find you. Trotsky was assassinated and he made it all the way to Mexico.

WHERE TO STAY

Because of the mass migration of rural peasants to the cities due to the famine that ravaged the countryside in 1932, housing is at a premium. Only six per cent of households have more than one room, and to cope with the increasing demand, sub-par apartment blocks have been quickly erected. Housing belongs to the government here, and you have to make do with what you're given, and more often than not this means communal living. If you manage to find work with certain organisations, you may get a slightly better standard of housing. In reality, though, living somewhere vaguely comfortable is the best you should expect. There is great envy and animosity between families regarding the size of apartments, and even instances of people being murdered for possession of their housing. Bearing this in mind, living in a big place will not necessarily work in your favour.
WHO TO BEFRIEND

An NKVD officer
Befriending anyone in this climate of terror is a risk, even neighbours and family members are driven by fear and greed to report each other to the authorities. However, it’s hard to survive alone, so genuine, reliable people are important to keep around you. A great friend to have would be someone in immediate authority, such as an NKVD officer. The NKVD are responsible for kidnappings and assassinations, so getting in an officer’s good books can mean the difference between life and death. It’s not without risk, but few things are in communist Russia.

Extra tip: To ensure survival, there are groups of people you want to make sure you’re not associated with. The orthodox clergy have basically been wiped out; writers, intellectuals and artists are also hunted down and imprisoned or killed. Anyone at all who poses a threat or is seen to upset the status quo is to be avoided.

WHO TO AVOID

Joseph Stalin
Although it may seem a good idea to befriend the figure with the most power, getting close to Stalin is extremely risky. The leader is a very volatile, ruthless and unpredictable man, paranoid that everyone is determined to oust him from power. These beliefs have led him to put to death even his closest friends, such as Nikolai Yezhov, his old Bolshevik allies and even his own tutor. If you are able to befriend him, it’s a very powerful card to have in your hand, but the risks may be too great. It will aid your survival to keep your head down and avoid attracting the dictator’s attention in any way.

Helpful Skills

Every action you make can mean life or death, so make sure you go in prepared with these essential skills

Specialist skills
Everyone in the Soviet Union is required to work. As Lenin wrote: “Those who don’t work don’t eat” so getting a high-paying job is paramount. If you have specialist skills, such as engineering, this will help put food on the table.

Acting
You are not free to air your real thoughts in Soviet Russia - doing so will get you arrested or killed. If you’re able to create a front and play the role convincingly, it could save your own life and those you love.

Language
Anyone who belongs to an ethnic group that isn’t Russian is persecuted, and Russification - the enforcing of Russian language and customs - is spread across the country. Not speaking Russian will make you an easy target.
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AUTOMOBILES
From two miles an hour to 240 miles an hour - how has the car become our most popular form of transport?

**ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER GHOST 1907**
Henry Royce initially only wanted to design a functional successor to his coarse Rolls-Royce 30hp, but the 40/50, later known as the Silver Ghost, was more reliable, far smoother and very quiet. It stayed in production for 20 years, with more than 7,000 being made in the UK and USA, and it became the luxury car of choice among the upper classes. Unfortunately, Royce's business partner, Charles Rolls, did not live long enough to enjoy the fruits of the Silver Ghost's success - he died in a plane crash in 1910 at the age of 32.

**FARDIER À VAPEUR 1770**
The first powered automobile large enough to carry a driver was Frenchman Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot's fardier à vapeur (steam dray), an artillery cart driven by a steam piston rather than horses. It was produced as a trial for the French army but was impractical and unreliable. It was unstable, did not get above three miles per hour, and the fire needed to be relit every 15 minutes. However, Cugnot had proved that a powered automobile was possible.

**BENZ PATENT-MOTORWAGEN 1886**
German engineer Karl Benz owned a factory producing stationary engines but always dreamed of building a horseless carriage. He succeeded with the three-wheeled Benz Patent-Motorwagen, the first automobile specifically designed to be powered by an internal combustion engine. Benz continued to improve his invention and an extra gear was soon added after it was discovered that it struggled to climb hills. The Patent-Motorwagen was only ever a series of prototypes - 25 were produced in all - but its successors, the Viktoria and Velo, sold in the thousands in Germany and France.

**TESLA ROADSTER 2008**
Electric cars were popular at the turn of the 20th century until petrol became a more reliable and convenient form of fuel. However, electric cars have experienced a recent revival due to environmental concerns regarding petrol and diesel. The Roadster, produced by electric-only manufacturer Tesla, became the first mass-produced electric car since World War II. It travelled more than 200 miles between charges and could reach 60 miles per hour in 3.9 seconds, but did not sell well in comparison to mainstream electric-petrol hybrid cars and was withdrawn in 2012.

**GOOGLE SELF-DRIVING CAR 2012**
The biggest cause of road traffic accidents is driver error. One way to eliminate this is to remove the need for a driver. Driverless cars are powered by computers that sense their external environments through laser imaging and GPS. Among the frontrunners in this new technology is Google, which first put a modified, self-driving Toyota Prius on the road in Nevada in May 2012. Although still only legal in four American states, Google is aiming to make its driverless cars available to the public in 2020.
FORD MODEL T 1908

At the turn of the 20th century, cars were still expensive luxuries, handcrafted by skilled workers. By producing his Model T on an assembly line, Henry Ford was able to significantly reduce costs and market the Model T as the first affordable automobile. It was a staggering success; by 1918, half of all cars in the USA were Model Ts and Ford no longer needed to advertise. The number of man-hours required to produce each car reduced from 12.5 to 1.5, and one was completed every three minutes. Just before production halted in 1927, the 15 millionth Model T was made.

VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1938

In 1934, Adolf Hitler demanded a “volkswagen” – literally translated as “people’s car” – an inexpensive, reliable automobile that could allow Germans to cruise the new autobahns. The result, the Beetle, first rolled off the production line of the new state-owned Volkswagen company in 1938, but war meant that no more than a handful were made. After 1945, the Beetle was resurrected and became much more than Hitler’s pet project. Its iconic looks made it popular throughout the world, with more than 21 million produced before the original Beetle platform was retired in 2003.

MCLAREN F1 1992

Not all cars were produced with the mass market in mind. Designed solely to appeal to those with thick wallets, only 106 McLaren F1s were produced with a price tag of about £500,000. Produced by a spin-off company from the motorsport team, the McLaren F1 became the fastest road car in 1998 when it reached 240.1 miles per hour on a test track. It helped increase the value of the model – comedian Rowan Atkinson put his twice-crashed F1 up for sale in 2015 at a cost of £8 million.

STANLEY STEAMER 1886

At the start of the 20th century, steam-powered cars outsold those powered by internal combustion engines. The most notable was the Stanley Steamer, produced between 1886 and 1924. They were quick – in 1906, a Stanley Steamer called the Rocket covered a kilometre at an average of 127 miles per hour, breaking the land speed record. Steam cars began to wane in the 1920s as internal combustion engines became cheaper and easier to use – drivers were no longer prepared to wait 20 minutes for their steam engine to fire up.
On 14 August 1415, Henry V of England landed on the beaches of the Seine estuary, in northern France. Falling to his knees, he embraced the wet sand, giving thanks to God and praying for victory. In doing so, he emulated his great-grandfather, Edward III, during his own campaign in 1346, which culminated in the legendary Battle of Crécy. With this gesture, rehearsed again and again in the king’s mind over the past weeks, Henry not only evoked the memory of the great man and his great victory, but also reinforced his holy mission.

Everything about the invasion, from the choice of landing sites to the king’s royal gesture, had been meticulously planned for months and even years in advance. To many, it seemed the king was gambling everything by venturing into France, but for Henry, this was a very personal mission. On this campaign he would finally discover whether or not it was God’s will for him to ascend the throne of France, settling the long dispute with the French monarchy. His cause would be put to the bloody test of the battlefield. If he were graced with victory, it would prove God judged him the rightful king of France. If he failed, he would lose his honour, his crown and even maybe his life.

With the rest of his invasion force landing and unloading around him, the king knighted several of his companions, again in emulation of Edward III. Before long, the 15,000-strong force was camped near the town of Harfleur. This was just the start of a long and gruelling campaign that would test not only England’s king, but the thousands of men that had followed him to France. Ahead lay endless possibilities for gold and glory, and the men from across the channel had come to claim both.

**Origins of the Warrior King**

Events in Henry’s life, and even before his birth, had led him inevitably to war in France. The ongoing dispute between the two Kingdoms had already lasted nearly 80 years, and Henry’s predecessors had fought bitterly for their hereditary lands, as well as France itself. Henry IV, his father, had struggled establishing his legitimacy at home, facing down numerous rebellions during his reign, so had been distracted from pressing any claim the English throne held on the French one.

Among the most formative moments for Henry came while he was prince of Wales. During the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, when he was aged just 16, the prince was fighting against Henry Hotspur and a rebel army, in the thick of the melee, alongside his father the king. During the clash, an arrow struck the prince in the face, burying itself some six inches deep in his right cheek. Many around him feared the worst, but Henry was able to continue fighting and refused to be pulled from the field. The renowned surgeon John Bradmore saved the prince, first extracting the arrowhead embedded deep in his cheek, then tending to the ghastly wound it left.

The prince of Wales would carry the scar from that battle for the rest of his life, as a constant reminder of just how close he came to death that...
day. From grim personal experience, he now also appreciated how effective the longbow could be on the battlefield. In order to hide the unsightly mark on his right cheek, all his future commissioned portraits would show him in profile, with only the left-hand side of his face on show. Not only was the young prince proud, and undoubtedly vain, but the scar was a telling reminder of his vulnerability and mortality.

Henry continued to campaign in Wales, taking command of the army against the Welsh nobleman Owain Glyndwr in 1406. During this time, he would learn much about the ways of warfare - how to properly supply an army with food and money; what it took to take a settlement during a siege and how to organise forces successfully while in hostile territory.

Soon, the Welsh campaign came to an end, with Glyndwr and his followers in hiding. The young prince proud, and undoubtedly vain, but the scar was a telling reminder of his vulnerability and mortality.

Henry and his men seen praying before the battle commences. Religion was extremely important to the young king.
Meanwhile, the Dauphin and his nobles still stalled and stumbled in their organisation, failing to respond to Henry's attack. Receiving Harfleur's letters pleading for assistance, the dauphin responded that an army would be coming, but as the weeks passed, no such army was ready to take on the English. The dauphin sent a general call to arms from among the French nobility, including the dukes of Britanny, an English ally. He did not appeal to John the Fearless, duke of Burgundy, who he suspected would simply lead his army to the gates of Paris to take the throne.

By late September, the situation in Harfleur was becoming desperate, but the siege was gradually coming to its end. Dysentery was rife in the English camp, as well as in the town's population, which was starving. On the 22nd, the town surrendered to king Henry, who now turned his attention to the next phase of his campaign. Realising he had nowhere near enough strength to march south towards Paris, Henry decided on a route north east towards the safety of Calais — but first the dangerous path through enemy territory.

Before the army set out, Henry had his commanders remind their men of the king's strict rules of conduct. On no account was any man to pillage, set fire to houses, or rape in any French settlement. In keeping with the king's own abstinence, prostitutes were also not permitted into the camp. Additionally, no unarmed persons were allowed to be taken prisoner. Although these rules were not always followed to the letter, they reveal Henry's firm belief in not only his holy mission, but also the need to respect the French population, who he saw as his subjects by right.

Henry led from the front during the battle, putting himself in harm's way more than once.

21 June 1377
Richard II, son of the Black Prince, crowned king of England, after the death of his grandfather Edward III.

13 October 1399
Henry IV is crowned king of England, after depositing Richard II from the throne. He also lays claim to the Kingdom of France through his grandfather Edward III.

21 July 1403
Henry, prince of Wales, Henry IV's heir, is wounded during the Battle of Shrewsbury, where he helps put down a rebellion under Henry Hotspur.

23 November 1407
Louis de Valois, the duke of Orleans and brother of Charles VI of France, is assassinated in Paris on the orders of the duke of Burgundy, beginning the Armagnac-Burgundian Civil War in France.

9 April 1413
Henry V is crowned king, after the death of his father, but soon has to deal with several rebellions against his rule.

14 August 1415
Henry lands in France, near the town of Harfleur, with about 15,000 men. After a drawn-out siege, he captures the town on 22 September.

6 October 1415
After deciding not to head to Paris, Henry leaves a garrison at Harfleur and leads a force of about 9,000 men towards the safety of Calais.

25 October 1415
Harassed by French forces, Henry gives battle near the village of Agincourt, where his longbowmen are able to defeat a much larger French force.

29 October 1415
Henry and his army reaches the safety of Calais, and the victorious king returns to London as ruler of France on 23 November.
That any charging cavalry would tire quickly.

Additionally, the ground sloped slightly away from their superior numbers against the English.

With the king of England within their grasp, many of the French nobility saw the opportunity to gain not only glory, but great rewards in capturing him. Many positioned themselves to the rear of the army, out of effective range, the French did not even have the ability to return volleys of their own against the English.

With a range of over 250 yards, at a rate of eight arrows per minute, Henry V's longbowmen proved deadly for the French knights, who were left vulnerable to volley after volley of arrows. With their crossbowmen moved to the rear of the army, out of effective range, the French did not even have the ability to return volleys of their own against the English.

The king second. Nominally, the French forces were answerable to Charles d'Albret, the constable of France, but in reality, each nobleman argued his own opinion on how the battle should be fought, causing a fractured and incoherent command structure.

Henry had positioned his army at an ideal location for containing the advancing French troops between two areas of woodland. With forest on each flank, the French ranks could not spread wide enough to take advantage of their superior numbers against the English. Additionally, the ground sloped slightly away from the French up towards the English position, meaning that any charging cavalry would tire quickly.

Although the some 9,000 fighting men had left Harfleur with provisions for several days, some weeks later the soldiers were forced to scavange and forge from the countryside they travelled through. Ill and weakened by hunger, the English marched on for several more days until, on 24 October, the French army finally arrived and blocked their route to Calais.

On the night of 24 October, one account has a knight remarking on his wish for another 1,000 men to fight the French, to which Henry replied: "...do you tempt God with evil? My hope does not wish for even one man more. Victory is not seen to be given on the basis of numbers. God is all powerful. My cause is put into His hands." It is this account, in all likelihood a fiction, that largely inspired Shakespeare's famous St Crispin's Day speech, which would further immortalise the king and his companions.

Rising early on 25 October, the English camp set about preparing for the coming clash. Longbowmen sharpened their wooden stakes and drove them into the soaked earth, men-at-arms tightened the straps on their armour, while the king moved among the ranks, rallying the spirits of the soldiers. The army was organised into three battles, or groups, with the king himself positioned in the vanguard at the centre. Longbowmen positioned themselves to the sides of each battle, so as to create a channel of sharpened stakes and lethal arrow shot that any advancing French would have to pass through.

A few hours later, neither side had moved and the men were restless. Though heralds from each army had passed terms to the other in a vain effort at negotiation, the outcome was inevitable. Knowing his men were weak from starvation (with many suffering from diarrhoea) and that the French could easily wait them out and watch them weaken, Henry made one of the boldest decisions of his life - he ordered the attack.

Sir Thomas Erpingham, in command of the archers, rode up in front of the English lines, threw a white baton high into the air and cried aloud "now strike!" At this signal, the army advanced. The dismounted men-at-arms ran in, as best they could, straight towards the enemy. Some longbowmen unhearthed their stakes to bring with them, though others, bewildered that they were actually moving, simply crossed themselves and ran forward. Before the French could realise what was happening, the English bows were in range and unleashed volleys into their ranks. Some Frenchmen had even temporarily left the field to find food, not believing an attack was imminent. Waves of arrows fell among the startled French with deadly effect, spreading panic.

"Waves of arrows fell among the startled French, with deadly effect, spreading panic.""
THE BUTCHER OF AINCOURT: HENRY V

Out of wool and often stuffed with hair to offer some protection.
THE BUTCHER OF AGINCOURT: HENRY V

THE BRITISH LONGBOW

King Henry's fearsome archers were nothing without their expertly crafted weapon.
HEAD TO HEAD
The unskilled French archers were no match for the English and Welsh longbowmen.

French crossbow
- Draw weight: 1,000lb
- Firing rate: 2-3 arrows per minute
- Range: Approx 380 yards

English longbow
- Draw weight: Up to 180lb
- Firing rate: 8-10 arrows per minute
- Range: 250-350 yards

WHY WERE LONGBOWS SO DEADLY?
War bow expert Mark Stretton explains the lethal range at which longbowmen could strike their enemy.

Point-blank or around 10-20 yards is going to be the most lethal or penetrative impact, as the arrow will not have lost any velocity at such a short distance, but will have straightened up enough out of the bow to hit the target square on to give the maximum delivery of energy. However, there is no maximum lethal range if the arrow can be shot over 220-240 yards. The reason for this is that with my ballistic tests, once the arrow had gone over 220 yards, it would then impact with the same force as if it was shot at 40 yards. At 40 yards, the arrow does not have quite the same energy as at 10 yards, but it is hardly any difference and is still lethal. The reason for this is simple. For the arrow to be able to make a distance of over 220 yards, it must be shot at 43-degree trajectory, which then means that it will reach a certain altitude before returning to the ground. By achieving that altitude, the arrow will fall at terminal velocity, so in actual fact it cannot fall any faster no matter how high it reaches its zenith. So this means that the kinetic energy of an arrow will be the same at any distance over 220 yards, which of course means that it is still deadly at such distances. Add the fact that heavy cavalry will be riding into the shot, and the penetrative force is even greater.

This arrowhead has a Heavy, large and with four sharpened edges, this long bodkin point was developed purely to punch holes right through steel plate armour. The arrowhead socket is formed from a flattened spoon shape, rolled into a cone and fitted over the wooden arrow shaft. When used with a half-inch-thick arrow weighing almost a quarter of a pound, and shot from a true military war bow, this would have been the equivalent of a Medieval rocket-propelled grenade.

ARROWHEADS OF THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD
Take a closer look at Medieval arrowheads and find out how each was made and used.

Loose Arrowhead
Heavy bodkin
Heavy, large and with four sharpened edges, this long bodkin point was developed purely to punch holes right through steel plate armour. The arrowhead socket is formed from a flattened spoon shape, rolled into a cone and fitted over the wooden arrow shaft. When used with a half-inch-thick arrow weighing almost a quarter of a pound, and shot from a true military war bow, this would have been the equivalent of a Medieval rocket-propelled grenade.

Type 10
This was perhaps the most common arrowhead of the Hundred Years' War - simple and fast to make, and highly effective against the armour of the period. The Type 10 was a simple bodkin - a four-sided point and a rolled socket. Forged by a master arrowsmith, this was the evolution of the needle-bodkin arrowhead. As chainmail armour gave way to plate armour, the Type 10 arrowhead found its way into the Medieval arms race.

Type 16
This arrowhead has a very distinct difference from the bodkins. It contained barbs on either side, which made it incredibly difficult to remove from whichever target it may have pierced. The barbs would most likely have been ‘fire welded’ to the head separately. The popularity of such a head is unknown, but surviving examples of Type 16 do surface from time to time. This may have been a military-adapted version of a hunting head.

Punisher Bowhead
As with the Type 10, this arrowhead would also have been cheap and fast to produce. According to master arrowsmith Mark Stretton, once the socket has been formed in the usual way, the red-hot arrowhead is placed into a press or ‘swage’, which is then hammered shut. The corners are then cut and ground to produce the sharpened edges. This type of head would have been mostly ineffective against plate armour, but would pierce many types of textile armour, such as padded Gambesons.
**The Butcher of Agincourt: Henry V**

In the battle that would define his campaign in France, Henry sent his weary troops to destroy the enemy.

[Map of Agincourt]

**Forward banners**

The English archers on the right—led by Henry himself—sent arrows at the French. Within the woods, standards were set in the ground, forming archers set a series of pointed divisions closed and the English halted, the French attempting to move forward.

**French attempt to move forward**

After the shock of the assault, the French gathered in order to take the battle to the English. However, arrows from French archers and artillers immolated the French second line. Some Frenchmen even bit men who had spared. The king's decision was unsurprisingly considered to be a victory.

Caught under unrelenting showers of arrows, several hundred each second, the French army panicked. Without any other option, the order was sounded to charge across the field. The dead and dying men and horses began to pile up, blocking the way of those who came behind them. Instead of an overwhelming charge, this meant that the French knights arrived at the English lines piecemeal, but nonetheless, the sheer weight of numbers began to tell.

Pressed in the centre, where Henry's standards were still proudly raised, the English were forced to fight ferociously to hold back the French men-at-arms. Though surrounded by guards and knights, the king fought in the thick of it, and at one point even saw the life of his brother, Humphrey, right in the face of the advancing enemy. All the while, to the rear of the English lines, priests knelt on the wet ground, praying feverishly to God for deliverance and mercy.

Before long, all of the English arrows had been loosed into their targets, and the French army was in a full retreat. Men swarmed all over the field of the dead and the dying, to loot and take prisoners for ransom. The waves of enemy knights crashed against the English wall of steel, and had been stopped. However, victory was not yet won. As the Englishmen gathered together their hostages and caught their breath, a cry went out that the French were rallying for another attack.

With his arrows all but spent and his men-at-arms now tired and battered, Henry feared his ranks could not hold another onslaught. With his men all around still busy looting the field, he made another bold, but this time terrible, decision. He ordered all prisoners not of royal blood to be immediately executed. This was perhaps one of the most damning acts of his life, as the massacre was against all laws of chivalry and un-Christian. This single, violent, even harrowing act signalled the end of the bloodshed, with the rallying French troops giving up the field. Meeting with French and English heralds later, Henry asked the name of the nearest castle, and proclaimed the battle be named after it: Agincourt. As he wished for, his name and his great victory lived on down the centuries, even surpassing the exploits of Edward III. More importantly, Henry had passed the great test of the battlefield, and God had judged him just in his cause.

Soon he had secured a marriage to the French princess Catherine de Valois and was promised the crown of France. In December 1421, the couple produced a son and heir, the future Henry VI. The long and terrible war between their kingdoms, it seemed, was over for good.
Mark the 600th anniversary of the epic Battle of Agincourt, exploring its history and legacy, with this free FutureLearn online course that brings the triumph and tragedy of the clash to life.

To celebrate this 600th anniversary year of the epic Battle of Agincourt, the University of Southampton's Department of History have enlisted the foremost academic expert on the battle, Professor Anne Curry, to unravel the true story of the epic clash in FutureLearn's incredible new online course.

With Anne, you will learn about the preparations for the battle and its context within the Hundred Years' War between England and France. You will consider the legitimacy of Henry V's claim to the French throne and whether his actions in going to battle were justified. Using original archive documents, you will also learn more about the soldiers who met on the field of battle.

You will then learn about what happened during the battle itself, and examine how myths about the battle have built up over subsequent years. Dan Spencer, one of Anne's PhD researchers, will examine the kinds of guns and other weaponry that could be found on the medieval battlefield.

Finally, we will visit the battlefield itself, to examine what remains at Agincourt today. You will learn about the modern site of the battle and how scientific historical research can transform our understanding of an event that took place 600 years ago. The course will coincide with the anniversary of the battle and will feature contributions from a range of experts on Agincourt.

Agincourt 1415: Myth And Reality begins 19 October and is totally free. The online course lasts for two weeks and requires three hours per week of study. Find out more at FutureLearn.com
THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

Written by John Man
Spanning thousands of kilometres and centuries of construction, this enduring fortification remains enveloped in myth and wonder.

The Great Wall is one of the world's most popular tourist sites and one of the best known of national icons. It sounds simple enough, and looks it when seen on a tourist T-shirt proclaiming 'I climbed the Great Wall', yet it is a thing of mystery.

That very phrase - 'a thing of mystery' - is a paradox. The Wall is not a single thing; it is plural. It loops, soars, duplicates itself and often vanishes completely. Bits of it have been rebuilt many times. Tourists see the stone sections north of Beijing and assume that it runs across all north China, but to the west, stone gives way to earth, sometimes wind-blasted ridges, sometimes nothing at all. There is also much more to the Wall than wall: fortresses, guard towers and beacon towers range out along, ahead and behind it. It is an immeasurable mass of bits.

The Chinese term for the Wall adds to the mystery. They call it the Changcheng, which means both Long City and Long Wall. To English speakers, it makes no sense, but some 2,500 years ago when China was a collection of warring states, walls and cities were synonymous, because all cities had walls. The Wall, of course, is rather more than a city wall, which is why Chinese adds the adjective. Imagine a city wall cut open and stretched out, with farms and garrisons along it - that's how to make a Long City into a Great Wall.

The first Great Wall - though it was not called that until the 20th century - guarded the first Chinese Empire, ruled by the strongest of the warring states, the Qin dynasty. Qin (pronounced 'chin', giving its name to China) was originally a backwater on the southern edge of the Ordos semi-desert. Hardened by 400 years of constant war, Qin grew even harder under its most ruthless leader, Qin Shi Huang Di, the First Qin August Emperor, usually known simply as the First Emperor. It was he who unified the nation in 221 BCE, and later created the vast mausoleum near Xian that contains China's second most famous tourist attraction, the Terracotta Army.

After unification, the First Emperor found he had several problems. To the north, beyond the Gobi desert, was another very different empire, one of predatory nomadic horsemen: the Xiongnu (pronounced 'shung-nu', and often equated with the Huns, though the evidence is much debated by scholars). In addition, the emperor had a vast army
Inheriting a tradition of wall building that stretched back almost 2,000 years, the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) committed itself to sealing the northern frontier against the 'barbarian' nomads - the Mongols - with a wall of unprecedented strength. To the west of the Yellow River, it was mainly made of rammed earth. To the east, its many sections were of stone. It took almost two centuries to build.

**Bricks**
Brick-kilns produced the standardised oblong Great Wall brick, which was 36x19x9 centimetres.

**Stones**
Quarries supplied stone. Some slabs weighed 500 kilograms, a few more than a ton.

**Foundation**
A core was made of anything available locally: earth, stones and wood.

**Road**
The brick and stone wall, about 7-9 metres high, also served as a road up to six metres wide. Horses could gallop five abreast, or pass each other in safety.
The Great Wall of China

that needed employment, and millions of peasants to be controlled and taxed. In 214 BCE, he ordered many pre-existing walls to be joined to make a prototype of the Great Wall, some 2,500 kilometres in length. It took about four years to build. With millions of peasants dragooned into forced labour, an army to guard them and the Xiongnu locked out, the Wall came to define China, dividing the civilised from the barbarous.

So it remained for the next dynasty, the Han, except more so. Han Wudi – Emperor Wu (141–87 BCE) of Han – expanded his empire into Central Asia, despatching explorers and armies to build alliances with local tribes, and building the Wall further westwards into the deserts of the Western Regions. To do this demanded control both of Ordos and the Gansu Corridor, which is hemmed in by the Qilian Mountains on one side and deserts on the other, with rivers forming pastures down the middle. Through this bottleneck, only 25 kilometres across at its narrowest point, nomads galloped to raid north China. Whoever wished to rule China had to rule the Gansu Corridor.

The consequences were huge, and enduring. To seal this frontier involved a range of interlinked strategies, all leading step by step to a Great Wall. Wu had the manpower (1 million conscripts and some 10–13 million available for forced labour). He needed horses by the tens of thousands, mostly acquired through trade. He needed to make allies of a score of oasis kingdoms to the west, bribing them with lavish gifts, especially silk rolls by the thousand. He needed to subdue the Xiongnu. The newly conquered borderlands had to be secured with garrisons, who would have to be fed, which meant sending in colonists to grow grain, and there would have to be the Wall – made of rammed earth, plastered and whitewashed – and fortresses, farms and beacon towers, all creating the Long City we now know as the Great Wall.

Of war there was no end. Almost every year there were invasions and
The Great Wall of China

During the Ming era, Mongol raids were common on the Wall. Smoke signals can be sent from one tower to another along vast sections of the Wall to relay messages.

How to send a smoke signal
In the case of an enemy sighting, beacons were lit during the day and smoke signals sent during the day in order to alert soldiers further down the Wall.

counter-invasions with tens of thousands of cavalry and infantry. In 103 BCE, a Han force of 20,000, which had advanced 1,000 kilometres across the Gobi, was surrounded and massacred. In 99 BCE, a Han army killed 10,000 (ie many) Xiongnu yet lost 60-70 per cent of its men. An expeditionary force of 5,000 was trapped by Xiongnu horsemen in southern Mongolia. The enemy was lodged in the hills, shooting arrows like drops of rain,” according to the official Han history. Just 400 made it back home.

To cap it all, the Xiongnu remained strong. The ruling class had built a rich and varied life for themselves in the mountains of northern Mongolia and southern Siberia. One town was well fortified, and served by carpenters, masons, farmers, iron workers and jewellers. Some houses even had under-floor heating, Roman style. To the west, beyond the Great Wall, the Xiongnu controlled some 30 city-states in the Western Regions, mainly in today’s Gansu.

With both sides unified, neither could win. And what use was the Wall? Very little. The main historian of the period, Sima Qian, records many invasions, but never does he say that the Wall stopped one. Playing many roles – proclaiming the frontier, employing thousands, preventing defections and displaying imperial power – the one thing the Wall could not do was keep out the barbarians.

But there was no alternative strategy. The Wall headed ever further westwards, to Yumenguan, the Jade Gate Pass, on the edge of the vast and impenetrable Taklamakan Desert. Once, the fort was the centre of a thriving city. Now it is a sun-baked stub, with few visitors. Beyond, for a few more kilometres, the Han Wall is still there, a low ridge of sand-blasted earth layered with dried grass. The 2,000-year-old grass, preserved by the bone-dry air, looks as if it had been cut last week.

In the case of an enemy sighting, beacons were lit during the day and smoke signals sent during the day in order to alert soldiers further down the Wall.

“Of war there was no end. Almost every year there were invasions and counter-invasions with tens of thousands of infantry.”
for the old policy. The Wall had become part of Chinese identity, and could not be abandoned. The Mongols, the latest of the ever-shifting tribes to dominate today's Mongolia, forced a change. In the early-13th century, Genghis Khan united Mongolia's feuding clans with a vision of world rule, and he led them into conquest. North China had lost all semblance of unity, having been divided between a succession of non-Chinese tribes. At the time of Genghis's rise, the dominant powers were the Jurchen (from Manchuria, in the north east) and the Tanguts (of Tibetan origin) ruling most of the far west. The Great Wall was a shadow of its former self.

Under Genghis, the Mongols invaded and conquered until, on his death in 1227, they ruled the greatest land empire the world had ever seen, and it was still only half made. Genghis's vision of world rule was inherited by his grandson, Kublai Khan, who conquered all China, establishing a dynasty that lasted until the Mongols were thrown out of China in 1368. Since the Mongols were ruling on both sides of the Wall, it was completely redundant. It mouldered.

But then came a final, astonishing revival, under the successor regime, the Ming. They had seen what happened when China was divided and undefended. It could happen again, for back in the northern grasslands, Mongol princes still claimed they were China's rightful rulers. So the Ming rebuilt - but not well enough. In 1449, a Mongol force advanced on Beijing, destroyed a Ming army and captured the 21-year-old emperor Yingzong. For a moment, China lay at their feet. But their leader, Esen, did not have Genghis's vision. He dithered, giving the Chinese time to retrench. When he tried using the emperor as a bargaining chip, it was too late. A successor had been chosen, and Yingzong was worthless. Esen meekly sent him back, and retreated into insignificance.

The Ming learned their lesson. Though divided by bitter rivalries, the one thing they agreed on was that the Mongols must never, ever return. There were several options - diplomacy, trade, marriage - but all would imply that the barbarians were equals. Conventional thinking won. The Ming would make the Wall so strong that no nomad would ever appear south of it without permission.

Between 1567 and 1570, about 1,200 watchtowers were built along the Wall.
From this concept grew the Wall as people know it today: a roller coaster of masonry riding ridges over mountains as chaotic as crinkled tin foil.

A first step was taken in 1455, when rebuilding around Beijing got under way at the Juyung Pass. It would go on, in fits and starts, for another 170 years. A peace treaty with the Mongols in 1571 ended Mongol raids, but not wall building. When the last bits of this vast edifice clunked into place around 1600, the Nine Border Garrisons (as the Ming called it) ran from the Pacific westwards. It switch-backed over the mountains that are Beijing's natural bastions; it headed over the hills that border Inner Mongolia; jumped the Yellow River into Ordos; and struck westward through the Gansu Corridor to end at the great feet of Jiayuguan, gateway to Central Asia (not so far west as the older Han fort of Yumenguan, but better placed).

It is fantastically over-engineered. Of its many architects, the most effective was an austere polymath named Qi Jiguang (1528-88). Brilliant in martial arts, tactics, poetry and writing, he saw the Wall as an all-or-nothing enterprise. “If there is one weak point, then 100 strong points,” he wrote, “then the whole is weak.” From this concept grew the Wall as most people know it today: a roller coaster of masonry riding ridges over mountains as chaotic as crinkled tin foil. Every year, millions walk along it, most famously at Badaling, without any effect on its stonework.

Simatai is the most astonishing section. A 2,000-foot wall of rock rises like a fossilized wave with the Wall as its crest. It defies all sense, for no Mongol cavalry could possibly have climbed that ridge. The Wall teeters up a near-vertical slope, reduced at the top to a stairway no wider than a shoe, with vertiginous drops on either side.

The stone Great Wall of the Ming was completed just in time for the dynasty’s fall in 1644. It never proved itself, because long before it was finished, the Ming and the Mongols were trading, not fighting. When it might have come in handy for keeping out another upstart people, the Manchus from Manchuria, civil strife in China created a power vacuum. The leader of one Ming faction simply opened the gates to the Manchus, and the wall became instantly redundant, once again, because the Manchus, like the Mongols, ruled on both sides as the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). To cap the peace process, the Mongols became part of the Manchu empire by treaty. The Wall ceased to be a barrier. Chinese colonisation proceeded apace and Mongols increasingly became strangers in their own lands.

For 150 years, no one took any notice of the Wall. It took foreigners to see, admire and record, the first being a young artist, Lieutenant Henry Parish, who accompanied the British envoy George Macartney when he tried (and failed) to negotiate a treaty with the Manchu emperor Qianlong in 1798. Parish’s painting, when turned into a much-copied engraving, presented the Wall as a glorious, pre-photographic cliche: a monumental curtain of stone reaching (it was widely assumed in the West) right across China.

But still there were no admirers on the ground, for the Wall runs over remote areas far from the ports where Westerners lived in the 19th century. For the first half of the 20th century, internal conflict, war and Mao’s communist revolution in 1949 kept China closed. Finally, after US President Richard Nixon made his famous visit in 1972 and China began to open, the tourists came, and came, and came. Today, the Wall has risen above politics, strategy and controversy to become a symbol of national greatness and unity. It is pure heritage.
A MARINE AT GALLIPOLI AND ON THE WESTERN FRONT

MISSING BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

THE CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE IN THE GREAT WAR

LADY UNDER FIRE ON THE WESTERN FRONT

A MARINE AT LADY UNDER FIRE ON

GALLIPOLI THE WESTERN FRONT

AND IN THE

 AND ON THE WESTERN FRONT

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Lessons learned
The Battle of Bunker Hill was remembered by the British for more than just the sheer loss of life suffered by the redcoats. The battle showed General William Howe that attacking American fortifications head on was suicide. From then on, all British engagements with colonial forces used flanking tactics instead.

Less Bunker, more Breed
Despite the fight being associated with Bunker Hill, a great deal of the skirmishes actually took place on Breed’s Hill. This was mainly due to the rudimentary redoubt (a network of small forts linked together) that was built on top of this larger mount.

A high price paid
While the British claimed victory at Bunker Hill, the redcoats suffered terrible losses. When the last musket had finally been fired, a total of 1,150 regulars had fallen to take the hills surrounding Boston Harbor. On the colonial side, the Americans suffered about 450 deaths.

The fall of Warren
The death of General Joseph Warren in the closing hours of the Battle of Bunker Hill was perhaps as big a blow to the patriots as the loss of the hills themselves. Killed during the taking of the redoubt in the third attack by the British, his death was immortalised in a famous painting by artist and patriot John Trumbull.
The American Revolutionary War was barely a month and a half into its inception, and while the butchery and mass loss of life that would tear the nation asunder lay ahead in the dark eight years to come, the forces of the Kingdom of Great Britain and the rebellion militiamen of the colonialists were prepared for one of the first formal clashes of arms.

In the wake of the Battles of Lexington and Concord - which saw the colonials drive British forces into Charlestown and across the Charles River into Boston, effectively starting the patriot-led Siege of Boston - the British couldn’t allow for another defeat at the hands of the rebels. By 19 April 1775, a force of 15,000 men surrounded the towns, cutting off supplies and access via land. Thankfully for the small contingent of redcoats stationed there under the command of General Thomas Gage, Boston still had access to the fully prepared Boston Harbor. The Charles River was dominated by British warships, meaning the city could be supplied indefinitely.

However, a large contingent of colonial forces occupying the hills and ridges of the Charlestown Peninsula could not be tolerated. If the colonials managed to obtain and manoeuvre artillery pieces onto these hills, they would have the capability to bombard the city and drive the British to retreat onto the waters to surrender. Geographically, the Charlestown Peninsula was 1.6 kilometres long (one mile) from its isthmus (a small, neck-like opening of land) to its tip. It consisted of raised hills and ridges, with Breed’s Hill to the south and Bunker Hill to the north. Small it may have been, but controlling it had the potential to accelerate Washington’s siege and pummel Boston into patriot hands.

As May arrived, British reinforcements began to roll in by sea, eventually increasing the population of redcoat soldiers to about 6,000. Later that month, on 25 May, three British generals arrived in Boston aboard the HMS Cerberus. Gage had requested the presence of more generals as he had little intention of staying put in Boston while the patriots amassed its forces outside. Those generals, William Howe, Henry Clinton and John Burgoyne, were ordered to assist Gage in breaking out of the city and bringing the fight direct to the colonies.

By June, Gage, Howe, Clinton and Burgoyne had drawn up a plan to drive the patriots out. They intended to take the Dorchester Neck, thus fortifying the vulnerable Dorchester Heights. British forces would then progress onto Roxbury and meet the colonial forces there. Simultaneously, another force would flank the Charleston Heights and push to drive the colonials out of Cambridge.

The plan was soon thrown out of the window when the British spied militiamen activity on the hills across from the city. That activity consisted of 1,200 colonials under the command of Colonel William Prescott and led to the construction of a fort-like network of barriers around Breed’s Hill. The redoubt was square in shape, roughly 40 metres deep with 1.8 metre-high walls. It wasn’t the sturdiest of structures, but its high elevation and proximity to Boston provided a powerful advantage should the patriots manage to set cannons upon it.

While the British thought it little cause for concern to begin with, the steady increase of patriot soldiers made one thing clear: the colonials meant to move on Boston. For the British, something had to be done.

**Muted cannons**
The British attack on the American encampments on both Bunker Hill and Breed’s Hill were meant to be preceded by a series of bombardments from artillery cannons positioned near Boston Harbor - however, this proved impossible, as the six-pound guns couldn’t fire the 12-pound balls provided.
01 Under siege
On 19 April 1775, the American Revolutionary War began. One of the first organised military campaigns of the conflict commenced on the very same day when groups of Massachusetts militia converged on Boston in order to cut off access to the city. The forces, formally named as the Continental Army by Continental Congress, would come under the direct command of Commander-in-Chief George Washington after the battle.

02 British reinforcements
Following a request for support from forces in the surrounding area, General Gage’s contingent of soldiers is steadily bolstered during the month of May until the infantry garrison numbers about 6,000.

03 Fortifying the hill
While besieging the British-occupied city of Boston from the land, the leaders of the colonial forces learn the redcoats are planning to send forces to reoccupy the surrounding hills. In response, 1,200 men under the command of William Prescott refortify Bunker Hill and Breed’s Hill.

04 Confusion and preparation
The assault, under the command of Major General Howe, was initially intended to be split into three groups, with the main force to move around and attack from the rear. However, Howe misinterprets a group of soldiers on Bunker Hill as reinforcements and pulls back to request backup of his own.

05 Held back by snipers
By 3pm on 17 June, a large consignment of British reinforcements arrive in Boston, however, General Pigot’s forces readying to march near Charlestown Village are being picked apart by colonial sniper fire. Artillery fire from a nearby British warship bombards the village, but Pigot is eventually forced to retreat.

WILLIAM HOWE
LEADER
While Gage was in charge of protecting Boston, defeating the encroaching patriots fell to British Army officer William Howe.
Strengths Known for his daring military feats.
Weakness He was prone to underestimating his opponents.

52ND (OXFORDSHIRE) REGIMENT ON FOOT
UNIT
The 52nd were some of the main infantry groups used.
Strengths Well trained and readily supplied, the redcoats were far more physically prepared.
Weakness Struggled without cavalry or cannon support.

BAYONET
KEY WEAPON
When the British broke through the redoubt, they made short work of the patriots with their muskets.
Strengths Ideal weapon for close-quarters combat.
Weakness More cumbersome to carry in battle.
The aftermath
Following the battle (in which the British lost about 1,150 soldiers), any military clashes between the patriots and the redcoats would be reduced to small skirmishes and exchanges of sniper fire. Forming part of the greater Siege of Boston, the British would eventually abandon the city on 17 March 1776.

Colonials in retreat
With the colonial forces now in full retreat, the regulars finally retake the hills surrounding Boston and the peninsula as a whole. The colonials retreat to the Charlestown Neck and take refuge among fortified positions in Cambridge.

The first attack
General Howe’s troops attack the left flank of the American forces, expecting a quick and easy contest. However, the colonials position themselves behind a fence that runs along a narrow beach. The two forces collide, but it’s the regulars that endure the worst losses, forcing Howe to retreat in disarray.

The second attack
Pigot is now ordered to attack Breed’s Hill head on, with Howe’s forces redirected to push towards the railway fence that leads to Bunker Hill. However, much like the original main assault, the colonials manage to repel the British forces, using their dug-in redoubt to drive them back down the hill.

The third attack
A total of 400 additional British soldiers arrive, and a further 200 of the wounded are ordered to join the third and final assault on Breed’s Hill. With most of their troops consolidated into one force, the British finally manage to rout the redoubt on Breed’s Hill. The colonialists attempt to regroup at Bunker Hill, but to little avail.

For more great battles see History War Issue 21 on sale now!

United Colonies
TROOPS 1,500
CASUALTIES 450

Israel Putnam
LEADER
Alongside Colonel William Prescott, Putnam led the forces that attempted to repel troops on Breed’s Hill.
Strengths A highly skilled tactician and strategist.
Weakness Known to work his men to exhaustion.

6th Massachusetts Regiment
UNIT
The 6th were raised in June 1775 to form the Continental Army.
Strengths Made of local men with a greater knowledge of the area.
Weakness Not as well drilled as the British.

Six-pound cannon
KEY WEAPON
While not used in the battle fully, the threat of cannons on both sides accelerated the pace of the battle.
Strengths The power to pummel cities as well as troops.
Weakness Muzzle loaded and smooth bored, making them highly inaccurate when fired.
THE EPSOM DERBY SUICIDE

The true story behind the suffragette martyrdom that shocked the world

Written by Frances White
In the earliest days of the 20th century, the Epsom Derby was the most watched race in Britain. It was prestigious – an event so monumental that it coined the word ‘derby’ for races worldwide. It was at this event on 4 June 1913, with thousands watching, that a woman walked onto the track and was struck by the king’s horse. Her name was Emily Wilding Davison, and this act gripped, astonished and appalled the nation in the days, months and years that followed. As she lay dying, two groups were already waging a battle over her memory. Emmeline Pankhurst’s Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) needed her to be their martyr, and were trying to squeeze the tragedy for every column inch they could get. Meanwhile, the government, aware of how powerful a martyr could be, were quick to brand her a fanatical suicidal maniac. The funeral was akin to that of a monarch; thousands gathered to watch the suffragettes accompany her cortege through London. To many, Emily was not a woman, but a physical embodiment of the struggle for women’s rights. But she was more than this, and more than a single action on a summer’s day. Emily’s fight had waged for years before the fateful derby.

Emily came from a long line of steely, iron-clad women, and her childhood house was full of loud, ambitious siblings. Emily was a confident, resilient and talented girl with a head of fiery red hair and bright green eyes. She was clever, athletic and excelled at school. When her father died, her mother was left near destitute, and Emily was forced to drop out of college with the mounting fees impossible to pay. For a period she worked as a live-in governess for a household. The mistress was a New Zealander, and two years previously women in New Zealand had earned their right to vote after 20 years of campaigning. As a young woman on the brink of starting her own life, Emily’s fortunes had been dramatically changed and her future was uncertain. Education, then, became her crutch, and she earned enough to study at St Hugh’s College, Oxford. She naturally excelled, earning first-class honours, but degrees were closed to women, and she was unable to graduate. She then worked as a teacher for several years, and saved her earnings to study at the University of London. She received her first-class honours in 1908.

Emily boasted something many women didn’t have – an education – and she seemed fated to live a quiet but comfortable life of teaching. But perhaps it was this education that opened her eyes to the injustice suffered by women in Britain. In 1906, she joined the WSPU, the same year that ‘suffragette’ was coined by the press. The WSPU had been formed by six women and was led by Emmeline Pankhurst. The organisation was created after a split from the non-militant women’s suffrage societies, which had seen little progress with their peaceful campaigns. The WSPU, by contrast, was a militant organisation that operated by the slogan ‘deeds, not words’, and were not afraid to use violent protests. Joining was easy. It cost a shilling and the promise of remaining with the organisation until the vote was won.

Skilled, determined and educated, Emily advanced up the ranks to become one of the WSPU’s chief stewards at a 7,000-strong demonstration in Hyde Park on 21 June 1908. At this point, Emily abandoned her teaching post to completely dedicate herself to the movement. She took the suffragette mantra ‘deeds, not words’ very seriously, and her actions steadily became more and more militant. Throughout 1909 she was arrested multiple times in London, Manchester and Newcastle. When Emily and 20 other women attempted
to serve Prime Minister HH Asquith with a petition, she was arrested again. Her role in the events was not purely sacrificial; being a suffragette gave meaning to a life in want of it. She wrote that “through my humble work in this noblest of all causes, I have come into a fullness of joy and interest in living which I never experienced.” Four months later she was jailed again for trying to enter Lime House when David Lloyd George was making a speech. Steadily, her crimes and sentences increased. She was given two months in prison; after a hunger strike, she was out in five days.

Just a few days after leaving prison, Emily was protesting again, and was arrested after throwing stones at the windows of a liberal club. Again she went on hunger strike, except this time the guards had had enough. Well aware of the suffragettes’ methods to escape prison by going on hunger strike, the authorities had authorised force-feeding of the inmates who would not eat. Emily had to undergo the horrific procedure, which she wrote would “haunt me with its horror all my life.” She described herself as being held flat while the doctor attempted to find an opening around her mouth with a steel gag. He found a gap and pushed in the instrument, which prised her mouth open as wide as possible. A foul tasting liquid was then poured down her throat. When she attempted to force it out with her tongue, the doctor held her nose and gripped her tongue. Such practices were common, especially among working-class suffragettes who bore the brunt of prison abuse; many suffered irrevocable damage due to the brutal procedure.

In order to avoid this grisly fate once more, Emily barricaded herself in her cell with prison furniture. In efforts to force her out, a guard climbed a ladder and pushed a hosepipe through the window. As the cell filled with water, Emily’s steely determination won out. She would not open the door, even if it meant she would drown in her cell. Eventually, the guards broke down the door and Emily was spared. She would later receive 40 shillings in damages for this experience, and the general public were alerted to the appalling treatment of suffragettes in prison.

In April 1910, Emily became an official paid employee of the WSPU and her bold acts increased in number. In 1911, on the night of the census, she hid in a cupboard in the chapel of the Palace of Westminster so she could give her residence as the House of Commons. The intrepid woman grew more daring, and in November 1911, she was arrested for setting fire to letter boxes - an action carried out on her own initiative and not approved by the WSPU. Davison’s violent crimes had begun to distance her from the rest of the WSPU, especially its leadership.

Emily was imprisoned again, once more she went on hunger strike and was force-fed. By this point, she had come to believe that the fight for women’s rights needed a martyr to give their cause the attention it deserved. Desperate to ease the torture endured by women in prison, she climbed to the top of an iron staircase and threw herself from it, with a drop of 30 to 40 feet. However, she was caught on the edge of some wire netting below, which broke her fall. Regardless, she threw herself forward onto her head and lost consciousness. When she awoke, she had suffered severe head and spinal injuries.

By now, Davison was a nationally known suffragette, and her fiery, impulsive nature led her to mistakenly attack a vicar she believed...
EXPERT OPINION

June Purvis

June Purvis is Professor of Women’s and Gender History at Portsmouth University. She has published extensively on the suffragette movement and was one of the historical advisers for the 2015 feature film Suffragette, starring Meryl Streep as Emmeline Pankhurst, as well as appearing in the film as an “extra”.

Did the WSPU’s mantra ‘deeds, not words’ and violent protests help or hinder their cause?

Nine years of relatively peaceful protest by the suffragettes did not yield the Parliamentary vote, primarily because of the prejudices of the Liberal Prime Minister Asquith, an ardent anti-suffragist, and other MPs who sought party advantage rather than supporting women’s rights. Violent protests from 1912, always aimed at property and never to endanger human life, helped the women’s cause since it shook the complacency of the government and public. We must not forget the violence against the suffragettes. They could be punched and kicked when campaigning peacefully and then, from 1909, forced to endure the torture of forcible feeding, as Emily Wilding Davison did, if they went on hunger strikes when imprisoned. Even when more violent methods were taken up, constitutional tactics of civil disobedience were still deployed, such as interrupting church services.

The Rights of Women in 1903

- Vote in Local Elections
- Parliamentary Vote
- Stand as Candidates in Parliament
- Divorce Husband
- Own Property
- Become Councillors
- Keep their Earnings
- Graduate from Oxford or Cambridge University
When Davison attended the Derby that day, did she have martyrdom in mind?

The idea that Emily thought the race had passed and was walking across the track is disputed by an eyewitness, John Ervine, who said: “I feel sure that Miss Davison meant to stop the horse, and that she did not go on to the course in the belief that the race was over... only a few horses had gone by when I first saw her leave the railings.”

This was not the first event in Davison’s life that indicated she was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for her cause. While in prison she had thrown herself over the railings twice, very aware that it may result in her death. When she was treated after one of these attempts, she went on record saying “a tragedy is wanted.”

Although Emmeline Pankhurst wasn’t in full support of some of Emily’s radical actions, she was convinced that Emily leapt in front of the horse with the intention of becoming a martyr. In her autobiography, she wrote: “Emily Davison clung to her conviction that one great tragedy, the deliberate throwing into the breach of a human life, would put an end to the intolerable torture of women. And so she threw herself at the king’s horse.”

Many historians are doubtful that Davison’s actions that day were anything to do with other suffragettes. Not only did she campaign independently from the WSPU, but the stories of her practising with horses and drawing straws come from very unreliable sources, and are akin to ‘folklore’. It is more likely that, as usual, Davison was acting alone and nobody was aware of her plans.

There is evidence that Davison had no intention of dying that day at the Derby. She had purchased a return rail ticket to Victoria station, and although that was the only type available to purchase, she did keep the return slip carefully stored in her purse. She also had a ticket to a suffragette dance that was taking place later that day.

Sylvia Pankhurst, Emmeline’s daughter, disagrees with her mother that it was suicide. She wrote: “She had concerted a derby protest without tragedy – a mere waving of the purple-white-and-green at Tottenham Corner, which, by its suddenness, it was hoped would stop the race. Whether from the first her purpose was more serious, or whether a final impulse altered her resolve, I know not. Her friend declares she would not thus have died without writing a farewell message to her mother.”

A lot of research has suggested that instead of simply throwing herself in front of the horse, Davison intended to attach a WSPU scarf to it, so the horse would be flying the flag when it crossed the finishing line. This is backed up by the two WSPU flags found in her possession after the incident. In the preserved footage of the incident, Davison is clearly seen reaching up to the racehorse.

It is likely Emily was unable to judge which horse was which, and the fact she chose the king's was a coincidence.
Emily’s funeral took place in her home town of Morpeth.
AGINCOURT: HENRY V, THE MAN AT ARMS & THE ARCHER

The story of one of the greatest military victories in British history

Author WB Bartlett Publisher Amberley Publishing
Price £20 Released Out now

Agincourt was the defining moment of King Henry V's reign. The second Lancastrian king had barely been on the throne for two years before plunging himself into the middle of a major war with Charles VI. Despite being outnumbered by the French forces, the English battled to a historic victory that secured Henry's place in history. On the 600th anniversary of the battle, WB Bartlett has penned an excellent and thorough account of the lead up to the day and the battle itself.

Bartlett's book is extremely easy to read thanks to his relaxed and almost conversational style that presents the facts succinctly and thoroughly. Bartlett's narrative starts by presenting the back story of how Henry ascended the throne. The reader is guided through this confusing and tangled part of British history with aplomb before the rumblings of war begin. There is plenty of action in the first quarter of the book, and the reader learns an awful lot about the young Henry as he hones his trade on the battlefields and waits to become king.

The rationale behind the war is developed and it is fascinating to learn how the men, transportation and weapons were acquired and paid for. This is a part of historical works that is often overlooked, and Bartlett demonstrates his superb research ability with an in-depth look at the places Henry's army came from and the desperate lengths to which he had to go to finance this war to reclaim the throne he considered to be rightly his.

Bartlett describes in detail a plot to overthrow Henry on the eve of his departure to France as well. Although this isn't directly linked to the battle, it is still a valuable insight into the tumultuous times in which Henry was operating. All of this builds to create a rounded picture of the determined warrior king. Bartlett lingers for some time over the siege of Harfleur, the first major test of the campaign, and the following march to Agincourt. This is the only part of the book that feels slightly drawn out, yet it is still full of interesting information. For the first time, the style slips into a more descriptive, novel-like tone, focusing on the probable emotions of the soldiers as they suffered from dysentery, hunger and exhaustion. The change of style is a welcome one and it does help the reader to empathise with the ordeal that these men were forced to go through in the name of their king.

The battle itself is richly described, using an impressive array of historical accounts, of which Bartlett repeatedly recommends taking with a pinch of salt, and the eyewitness accounts of men at the battle itself. This is an excellent read, entertaining and informative in equal measure. Bartlett has excelled himself with his research and has crafted a worthy tribute to one of the most jaw-dropping military victories of all time and the brave king and soldiers that won it.

"Bartlett's book is extremely easy to read thanks to his relaxed, almost conversational, style that presents the facts succinctly and thoroughly"
AN ILLUSTRATED INTRODUCTION TO THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The basics on the battle

Author Henry Buckton Publisher Amberley Publishing Price £9.99 Released Out now

ne Battle Of Britain is an event with historical importance that cannot be understated. Pitting the RAF against the might of the Luftwaffe, it was a battle that would not only determine aerial dominance, but Britain’s fate, and by extension the rest of Europe’s as well.

There are numerous stories behind the fight to determine Britain’s history, but unfortunately this illustrated guide seems more interested in detailing a by-the-numbers battle report, going into minutiae regarding the amount of attacks, casualties and what the targets were, but almost completely eschewing any of the more human stories behind the pilots. The end result is rather flat, not coming close to doing any kind of justice to such a pivotal episode in the nation’s history.

Moreover, most of the illustrations are bland, predominantly encompassing free-to-use images that can be easily accessed elsewhere. Accompanying this, it at times reads almost like a Wikipedia article – heavy on technical information and high on facts, but lacking anything that could make it stand out as original or in any way approaching a worthy purchase, especially considering the price tag.

It would have been nice to have some first-person accounts from pilots or people working behind the scenes at Bomber Command – indeed, anyone who could be relied upon to give this a fresh spin that is in some way different to the numerous other publications on the subject matter there have already been.

Essentially, what this offers isn’t all that far removed from what can already be accessed for free elsewhere. There are hundreds of thrilling, inspiring and tragic tales from the Battle of Britain – take our advice and purchase one of those instead.

DOGS OF COURAGE: WHEN BRITAIN’S PETS WENT TO WAR

Yet more evidence that dogs are man’s best friend

Author Clare Campbell Publisher Little Brown Price £7.99 paperback/£14.99 hardback Released Out now

any great war of modern history have chronicled the gruelling strains of World War II, citing diaries, letters, official documents, radio recordings and so forth. But what of those whose suffering was silenced? What of the heroes who, if they even received a medal, could not express the sacrifice in their own words?

One such account is an emotional one, as she follows a long list of specific dogs and handlers of their journey. These include Peggy, one of the planes of dogs in the geological survey for land mines in the Netherlands during the 1944 Hungerwinter; Wolf, whose return to the Netherlands in 1946 was accompanied by a collar with a brave message from the Earl of Errol; and a dog named Honey, who was the first to arrive at the Abbey of Westminster in London.

Despite the sad tales, the book also evokes a sense of hope and unity, showing how dogs, just like humans, were able to triumph over adversity and bring joy to those in need. It’s a heartwarming tale of bravery and loyalty, a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always a ray of hope. 
FINDING ARTHUR: THE TRUE ORIGINS OF THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING

Will the real King Arthur please step forward?

Author Adam Ardrey Publisher Overlook Press Price £12.99 Released Out now

We know the charade of King Arthur as the quintessential English king. He and his knights of the round table would slay dragons, rescue maidens and go on glorious quests. Yet, in the same vein as his first publication, Finding Merlin, activist and writer Adam Ardrey seeks to turn this image of Arthur on its head by proposing to us that the real Arthur ruled in Scotland in the 7th century and his name was Arthur mac Aeddan.

Throughout, Ardrey uses first-hand accounts to help paint his canvas, and when the raid comes about a third of the way into the book, those testimonies really come into their own.

SABOTEURS: FRENCH RESISTANCE AGAINST HITLER'S ARMY

A look at the impact French saboteurs had during World War II

Author Franck Lambert Publisher Histoire & Collections Price £21.95 Released Out now

It took only six weeks for France to fall to the German invasion of 1940, a stunning defeat considering the French army was thought to be one of the strongest in Europe before World War II began. The French natives that had managed to flee to nearby peaceful countries, including Britain, immediately began plotting against the Nazis, in the hope that they could disrupt their activities and help the Allied forces recapture their homeland.

Franck Lambert provides an incredible insight into the operations of La Résistance Française, with thousands of pieces of photographic evidence detailing the saboteurs' activity, from their early missions right up to their involvement in the D-Day landings. It's unfortunately obvious that this book was originally written in French; some of the translation is particularly shaky and could have done with another proof read (leaving the French word for 'and' in is particularly irritating). Having said that, the level of detail that the book provides makes it well worth a read. The accounts of individual saboteurs are particularly impressive, and cleverly show just how much impact a single individual can have against a giant war machine such as the Nazis.

The author's passion for military history and World War II in particular is clear throughout the book, and by trawling through the Central Bureau of Intelligence and Operations' records, he has been able to reveal the exceptional fates of little known secret service operatives, many of whom returned to a normal life once the war ended. Many of these operatives deserve more credit for their acts of heroism, and readers of this book will be quick to realise just how significant their contribution was to the overall war effort.
LOVELL: FRIEND & AVENGER OF RICHARD III

The King's Dogge

The story of Francis Lovell

Nigel Green

ISBN: 978-1783061846

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Where is this statue?

This 71-metre-tall statue is carved out of a cliff face, and is the largest stone Buddha in the world, but where is it located?

Is it...

A. China  B. Japan  C. Thailand

Visit www.historyanswers.co.uk to let us know
What were the Opium Wars?

Chris Price, Brentford

By the middle of the 19th century, the opium trade was booming. Grown in India and sold in China, the Western powers, particularly Britain and France, used the profits from the sale of opium to finance the silk and tea trades in Asia.

War broke out after the Qing dynasty noticed the rising opium addiction in China, leading them to impose restrictions on the smuggling trade to prevent the drug from entering its borders. This caused a dent in British profits, resulting in the First Opium War (1839-42), which prevented the Qing government's efforts to stop the trade as Britain flexed its military muscle through gunboat diplomacy and the Treaty of Nanking.

The second war (1856-60) was altogether larger. France waded into the conflict this time, as the conflict began with the arrest of British smugglers by the Chinese in the 'Arrow Incident'. Britain responded by destroying coastal forts and junks, and later marched on Beijing with the French, annihilating an army of 10,000 and burning the emperor's summer palace in the process.

The wars had a lasting impact on China. They marked the beginning of the end for the long-standing Qing dynasty, sowed the seeds for the Boxer Rebellion and awoke a sluggish Japan, who began an ambitious modernising project known as the Meiji Restoration. East Asia would never be the same again.

"Britain responded by destroying coastal forts and junks, and later marched on Beijing with the French"

This day in history 15 October

Napoleon exiled to the island of Saint Helena
After his defeat at Waterloo, Napoleon is exiled to a remote island in the South Atlantic, where he would spend the rest of his life.

The Dreyfus affair
French army captain Alfred Dreyfus is convicted of treason after supposedly revealing military secrets to Germany. The dubious sentence is partially motivated by anti-Semitic groups.

First commercial transatlantic flight
The Graf Zeppelin airship holds the record for the first commercial transatlantic flight. It nearly ended in disaster when the port fin was torn off in a violent storm, but made it after emergency repairs.

Nationalists encircle Ruijin
Chinese Nationalist Party leader Chiang Kai-Shek surrounds the city of Ruijin, a centre of communist activity. Communist leaders including Mao Zedong flee in what is known as the 'Long March'.

What was the first anaesthetic?

Carla Short, Penzance

There have been various substances trialled as anaesthetics throughout history - including alcohol, opium and cocaine - but most were ineffective until the 19th century. The first anaesthetics to go into widespread use were ether and laughing gas in the 1840s. The effects of laughing gas, or nitrous oxide - that when inhaled in the correct amount it could numb pain - were first discovered by Humphry Davy in 1800. It fell down the pecking order, though, after American surgeon JC Warren removed a neck tumour using ether. Chloroform was another chemical used and was even recommended by Queen Victoria, who used it during childbirth. Professional anaesthesia societies were set up in the next few years as the profession grew. A whole host of local and general anaesthetics were developed as the 19th century wore on, as the likes of morphine came into use during the American Civil War and both world wars. Surgery was now a much safer and efficient operation.
What was the first assault rifle?

Owen Smith, Altrincham

The StG 44 is widely regarded as the first assault rifle. First introduced in 1943, it bridged the gap between single-shot rifles and fully automatic machine guns.

The design was extremely successful and it gave birth to a new class of weapons such as the AK-47 and the M16. Before the StG, several automatic carbine designs made steps in the right direction, but it will always be the StG 44 that has the legacy.

First used on the Eastern Front, the StG 44 performed well but it was too late to turn the tide of the war.

The Homestead Act distributed 32 million hectares (80 million acres) of public land by 1900.

Who were homesteaders?

Richard Logan, London

One of the US government’s early incentives to ‘go west’ was the Homestead Act of 1862. The act gave every settler 65 hectares (160 acres) of land and five years of residence. Built of sod, the homesteader houses started off primitive but soon grew into bustling communities. This was the beginning of the Wild West, as small towns shot up around the country. Most of the land given out was on the Great Plains, and along with the Gold Rush and the cattle industry, helped the white settlers achieve their manifest destiny as the Native Americans were pushed off their land.

Is Chernobyl still radioactive?

Emma Hall, Chester

Yes, very much so! It may have been in 1986 but the effects of the worst nuclear disaster in human history can still be seen today. Despite the accident, the plant continued to operate until the year 2000, but the area is now a ghost town. Animals and trees still live and grow in the area but experts predict that it won’t be completely safe for human habitation for as long as 20,000 years.

A concrete casing now surrounds the damaged core but plans for a stronger structure are being considered.

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The Great Storm of 1987

Shocking the Western world, after the Met Office had said it would never happen, a hurricane strikes the UK and France. Winds of up to 185 kilometres per hour (115 miles per hour) batter both countries as 22 people lose their lives.

First supersonic land speed record

Plotted by Andy Green, the UK’s ThrustSSC breaks the sound barrier as well as the land speed record. It reaches 1,227 kilometres per hour (763 miles per hour) using its two Rolls-Royce jet engines.

Launch of the Cassini Probe

Beginning a seven-year journey, the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft launches from Cape Canaveral. Its mission was to reach Saturn; it eventually arrived on 27 November 2004 and will continue orbiting until 2017.
Now that we are approaching its 75th anniversary, we thought your readers might like to read of a Macclesfield Home Guard exploit. It was recounted many years ago by our father, Henry Smith. He was conscripted to maintain machinery in munitions factories.

The background to the story, in the late summer of 1940, was that Hitler's forces had destroyed the Polish army in just over a month and forced the French to accept surrender in six weeks. They had compelled the British Expeditionary Force to evacuate the sands of Dunkirk and, with the Battle of Britain at a critical stage, were poised to invade Britain.

About four months after the formation of the Macclesfield Home Guard, Henry Smith was the lone Home Guard on night duty in the Drill Hall. His duties were to sleep beside the phone and report any messages or incidents to his superior officers, the sergeant and captain. If the Macclesfield Home Guard was called out, he was to load into the transport lorry the unit's single machine gun, which had seen service in World War I, and the one belt of ammunition.

Late in the night, Henry was woken by the telephone. It was the Colonel of the Cheshire Regiment at Chester. He said that a report had been received that German paratroopers had landed on hills above the town near the Cat and Fiddle, then thought to be the highest pub in England. He ordered the Macclesfield Home Guard to ascertain the truth of the report and should they sight any German soldiers, to monitor their movements but on no account to engage with the enemy. The Cheshire Regiment would rendezvous with the Home Guard at 0630 hours just below the Cat and Fiddle.

Henry's first thought was that this was a practical joke. He rang back to check that it had been a genuine message. At the time this was no easy task, since long-distance connections had to be made manually by a telephone operator. When he eventually got through to the colonel at Chester, he got very short shrift. The colonel told him that he was delaying carrying out an order of the highest urgency and to get on with the job.

Send your memories to: allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk
He, the colonel, would have to turn out of bed a whole regiment of professional soldiers and all Henry had to do was to organise a Home Guard squad. Henry’s immediate superior was Sergeant Riley, a seasoned veteran of World War I. Henry cycled round on his bike but there were no lights on in the building. He banged on the front door. There was no response. He tried banging several times but still no response. He went round to the back and banged on that door with his rifle butt. After several attempts, a voice from an upstairs window told him to “b*** off.” The pub was closed and everybody was in bed. Henry said that he wanted Sergeant Riley but was told that he wasn’t there and that again he should “b*** off.”

He was later to recall that the awful truth hit him at that moment, the fate of the British Empire could well be weighing on his shoulders and that, contrary to his nature, he should jolly well be forceful in his demands. He insisted that he wanted Sergeant Riley, that he knew he was there. To emphasise the point, he banged the door again.

When Sergeant Riley came out, Henry gave him the message and then volunteered to go to tell the captain. Sergeant Riley said that he ought to be the one to tell him. Henry was to get on his bike, round up the Guard and load the lorry.

All assembled at the Drill Hall, boarded the lorry and set off. Near the Cat and Fiddle, the Guard disembarked and began reconnoitring. At this point, the realisation hit Henry that although he had loaded the machine gun onto the lorry, he had left the belt of ammunition on the wall in the Drill Hall. The imminent possible encounter with German troops and the prospect that he could be responsible for the slaughter of the Guard appalled him. Fearfully, he crawled over to the sergeant to confess what he had not done. To his surprise, Sergeant Riley replied casually: “Don’t worry, lad; that ammunition belt doesn’t fit that gun anyway.”

They did not encounter any German soldiers so someone put on a kettle at about 0615 hours. There was no sign of the Cheshire Regiment either, so they decided to go home at 0800 hours.

Do you have any family stories to share? @AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag
NEXT ISSUE
What does the future hold for All About History?

**BOSWORTH: TRIUMPH OF THE TUDORS**
Inside Henry VII’s battlefield victory and the birth of the Tudor dynasty

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How the most notorious outlaw in the West was tracked down

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- IN THE NORTH SEA, HMS Tenacious hunts Soviet Subs...
- IN NORWAY, the SAS mounts a daring commando raid on a Soviet held airbase...
- IN GERMANY, the British Army of the Rhine fights a massive armoured battle...
- It's two minutes to midnight in World War 1990: Operation Arctic Storm

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**Studying the Battle of Britain? We have the answers**

The new Wing visitor centre at the National Memorial to the Few at Capel-le-Ferne in Kent brings to life the Battle of Britain and the events of 1940.

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Alongside the experience is a purpose-built learning area, the Geoffrey Page Centre, which is ideal for follow up work and study. The Memorial, the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall and a replica Spitfire and Hurricane will add further interest to the visit.

The Trust has KS2 and KS3 worksheets available, together with teachers’ notes. Well-informed staff are also on hand to provide extra information and coach parking is available.

Ring 01303 249292
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SAVING MR BANKS

Director: John Lee Hancock  Starring: Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, Colin Farrell  Country: USA  Released: 2013

Is this 'historical' film sweetened with too many spoonfuls of sugar?

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 There is a moving scene where the usually stern Travers gets up to dance to Let's Go Fly A Kite. In fact, Travers hated all of the songs in Mary Poppins, and believed that if songs had to be in it, they should be traditional to the time period. She certainly did not ever dance.

02 Much of the film centres on the exchanges between Travers and Disney, but actually Disney grew impatient with Travers’ demands and left the studio just a few days into her visit. A lot of the scenes between the two are adapted from letters and phone calls.

03 The film ends with Travers coming around to Disney’s way, but this couldn’t be further from the truth. She believed the film was a betrayal of her story and demanded he remove all the animated sequences, to which he replied: “Pamela, the ship has sailed.”

04 When Travers first watches the complete film at the premiere, she cries, overcome with emotion. Although she did cry, it wasn’t for the positive reasons the film portrays. She commented that: “Tears ran on my cheeks because it was all so distorted.”

WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT...

There is no denying Travers was prickly, and she may have even been softened in the film. This is backed up by the 39 hours of audio recordings of her meetings with the screenwriter and songwriting Sherman brothers. Richard Sherman agrees with this portrayal, commenting that she was a very difficult person to work with.
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With: Mike Bradley

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SOMME 2016 OVER THE CENTENARY

The Battle of the Somme began on a bright July morning in 1916. After five months of gruelling struggle this piece of French countryside was reduced to razed villages and burnt out farmland. By the end of the battle there were over 420,000 casualties.

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Tour price: TBA

Tour includes:
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