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PREMIUM TANK AS REWARD!
The story of Nero’s rise to infamy is one of bloodshed, betrayal and brutality. While researching this issue’s cover feature, I often found it hard to believe what I was reading - from the alleged murder of his pregnant wife to his marriage to a slave boy who bore an uncanny resemblance to her, it just gets weirder and weirder. From page 28, you can uncover the full twisted tale for yourself, while on page 60, we take a look at Edward IV’s triumph at Tewkesbury.

This issue we’re also marking 80 years since the 1936 Olympic Games with a special feature on the international reaction to Hitler’s racial policies in the Third Reich. Turn to page 38 to find out more.

In other news, I’m sad to say that this will be my last issue of All About History. I’ve loved every minute of it, but it’s time for a new challenge, and I’m sure that the next editor will take just as much joy in sharing history’s greatest stories with you as I have.

All the best.

Alicea Francis
Editor
The 1936 Nazi Olympics
How Jesse Owens defied the odds at the Games Hitler hosted

Spanish Civil War Artists in Arms
Explore the role of art, literature and photography in the fight against fascism

Features

The 1936 Nazi Olympics
How Jesse Owens defied the odds at the Games Hitler hosted

Spanish Civil War Artists in Arms
Explore the role of art, literature and photography in the fight against fascism
A crowd celebrates the result of the EEC membership referendum. The UK had entered the Common Market in 1973 under the Conservative government of Edward Heath, and part of Labour’s 1974 general election manifesto was a national vote on whether to remain. 67 per cent voted in favour on a 65 per cent turnout, in what was the first UK-wide referendum ever held.

1975
BONNIE & CLYDE SHOT DEAD

The criminal duo’s ‘death car’ riddled with 167 bullet holes. Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were ambushed and killed by police officers on 23 May 1934 as they were driving a stolen Ford V8 along the Louisiana State Highway. The police had been tracking them for months, and had received a tip-off that they would be travelling to Bienville Parish. The officers hid in bushes beside the road before opening fire.

1934
THE HITLER YOUTH GAMES

Children participate in a 'human chariot' race during a Nuremberg Rally. These Nazi propaganda events were held every year and were intended to show solidarity between the German people and the Nazi Party. Among the festivities were Wagner sing-alongs, human swastika formations, fireworks displays and sporting events – like this one being carried out by Hitler’s Youth organisation.

1933
THE FACT-PACKED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE

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ALL ABOUT AUSTRALIA

From the dawn of civilisation to the building of the Sydney Opera House and beyond, this is the story of the land down under.
Australia across history

How a rich Indigenous past and centuries of colonial rule shaped one the world's most diverse countries

ABORIGINAL ARRIVAL
The first Aboriginal peoples arrive in Australia by boat from South East Asia, during the time of the last great Ice Age. These Indigenous Australians live undiscovered until the 17th century.

EUROPEAN LANDING
The first known landing in Australia is by Dutch explorer Willem Janszoon. He is one of many Dutch travellers to explore the continent in the 17th century, and it is dubbed New Holland.

WORLD WAR I
Despite there being just 4.9 MILLION people in Australia, 420,000 volunteer to fight. 60,000 DIE including 8,141 men in eight months of fighting at Gallipoli on the Turkish coast. Anzac day, an annual holiday, is held on 25 April to mark the first landings at Gallipoli.

AUSTRALIA BECOMES A NATION
After years of calls for a union between the six mainland colonies, the Commonwealth of Australia comes into being under one constitution and is controlled by a new federal government.

PENAL TRANSPORTATION ENDS
In the midst of strong opposition from free, middle-class settlers, penal transportation ends. More than 150,000 convicts had been sent to territories across Australia.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION
Australia is badly hit by the worldwide economic downturn, and finds comfort in its love of sport. On 6 January, 21-year-old cricketer Don Bradman hits a world record 452 not out in a Sheffield Shield game in Sydney.

THE BATTLE OF DARWIN
Australia again offers huge support to the Allies during World War II. The Bombing of Darwin, by 242 Japanese aircraft, is the largest attack ever mounted by a foreign power in Australia.

IMMIGRATION BOOM
After the war, hundreds of thousands of migrants from Europe and the Middle East arrive in Australia. Many find jobs in the booming manufacturing industry.
**INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

Up to 1 MILLION

Aboriginal people live across Australia

These people are split into 300 CLANS

They speak 250 LANGUAGES

**COMING OF THE BRITISH**

Captain James Cook moors HMS Endeavour at Botany Bay and charters the east coast of New Holland for Great Britain, before returning home with plans to establish a penal colony.

**THE FIRST FLEET ARRIVES**

A fleet of 11 ships from Britain arrives in Sydney Harbour, carrying more than 1,000 settlers, including 778 convicts.

**JOHN MCDOUALL STUART CROSSES AUSTRALIA**

The explorer becomes the first man to traverse Central Australia from south to north, paving the way for the discovery of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (Mount Olga).

1862

**THE GOLD RUSH**

From Mount Alexander, 1.1 MILLION KILOGRAMS OF GOLD are transported.

Australia’s population almost quadruples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>430,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>1.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>1.7M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

290,000 people emigrate to Victoria from Britain.

**CASTLE HILL REBELLION**

A battle that pits convicts against colonial authority in the British colony of New South Wales rages. It is suppressed under martial law – the first and only time in Australian history.

**THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE OPENS**

One of the modern world’s most iconic buildings, the Sydney Opera House opens its doors for the first time as a first-class performing arts centre in the heart of the city.

1973

**OLYMPIC GAMES**

Sydney hosts the summer Olympic Games to worldwide acclaim. Indigenous Australian runner Cathy Freeman, who would also go on to win the 400 metres gold medal, lights the Olympic flame during the opening ceremony.

2000

**FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER**

Julia Gillard, as leader of the Labor Party, becomes Australia’s first female prime minister. Gillard forms a minor government after the federal elections produce a hung parliament.

2010

Though born in Wales, Gillard renounced her British citizenship shortly before entering parliament in 1998.
How to play Marn Grook

The Indigenous Australian game that could be the original Aussie rules football Victoria, Australia, up to 40,000 years ago

Believed to have originated in what would become the state of Victoria, Marn Grook is a pastime associated with the Indigenous population of Australia. The game was first played by the Gunditjmara people who settled in north-western Victoria and means ‘Game Ball’. It has been likened to Kemari in Japan and is one of the inspirations behind Australian Rules football, which is now played by more than 100,000 people in 80 countries worldwide. As the history of Aboriginal peoples is strictly verbal, written evidence is only available post-European colonisation, but it is speculated the game has been played for thousands of years.

Divide into teams

The teams are split by moiety social group so neither side can seek an advantage by selecting bigger or stronger players. This helps level the playing field, and in Marn Grook co-operation is essential for a chance of victory. In a way, the game is similar to modern netball with no movement allowed while holding the dirlk.

Ready for action

Once the teams have been decided, every playing member is daubed with different coloured ochre. The greetings are then given, which consist of a handshake, a thumb grasp and a pat on the back or a hug. After a brief speech from the elder (chulkul) saying, “Womin jeka beeyene” (welcome football players), the game will then begin.
**The evolution to Aussie Rules**

There are no Indigenous written records of Marn Grook so the legacy of the game is debated. One of the most well known theories is its supposed influence on the creation and development of Australian Rules football. Tom Wills’ impact on the game is questioned by some historians while others believe that Marn Grook was never an Indigenous sport at all and was in fact copied from Western settlers. Accounts of Marn Grook from 19th-century mission stations describe the game as having tackling and goals, potential evidence that Western sports influenced the pastime. Work disputing Marn Grook’s role in influencing Aussie Rules has received angry criticism from the Indigenous community, and, with historians and scholars only focusing on Indigenous Australian history in recent decades, it is possible that more on Marn Grook’s true origins will be unearthed in years to come.

---

**Obey the rules!**

There are no goals, positions or referees, so every player must be trusted to observe the rules to the letter. Anyone who breaches the rules will be prevented from being selected as the koornmuk (best and fairest player) at the end of the game. Marn Grook is an important part of Indigenous Australian culture so any rule breaking is deeply frowned upon.

---

**Warm up**

The players warm up by playing small games of Bidi and Pamdo before the main event. When Marn Grook begins, the competitors stand five metres away from each other in pairs and this ‘partner’ will be their opponent. Bouncing the ball is outlawed as well as tackling anyone in possession of the ball. Keeping the dirlk in the air is the priority.

---

**Marking contest**

The key is not to hold on to the ball for too long after receiving it, as players can be penalised for this behaviour by the chulkul. When the ball is in the air, a marking contest begins. The players will leap onto the backs of others in the hope of claiming the ball themselves. Once this is achieved, “Mumarkée” (catch) is yelled.

---

**Game over**

The game can last for hours and Marn Grook only ends when the chulkul decides the game has expired. Victory is not for the team and is instead given to the individual who jumped the highest or played the best. Win, lose or draw, both teams are encouraged to congratulate each other on how well they played and the koornmuk is announced.

---

**4 FAMOUS... AUSTRALIAN SPORTSMEN**

- **TOM WILLS** 1835-80
  
  A talented all-round sportsman, Wills is credited with helping draw up the original regulations for Australian Rules football.

- **LEIGH MATTHEWS** 1952-PRESENT
  
  The Hawthorn player is considered one of the greats of the AFL, and even has a trophy played in his name.

- **TRAVIS VARCOE** 1988-PRESENT
  
  One of 74 Indigenous players participating in the 2016 season of the AFL, Varcoe is a fast and skilled midfielder.

- **HCA HARRISON** 1836-1929
  
  Tom Wills’ cousin is regarded as the father of Australian Rules football and introduced rules like no hacking and no tripping.
5 surprising facts about...

THE DISCOVERY OF AUSTRALIA

EUROPEAN EXPLORERS CLAIM ‘TERRA AUSTRALIS’ FOR ENGLAND

AUSTRALASIA, 18TH CENTURY

01 The Dutch found it first...
Many believe that Captain James Cook was the first to find Australia in 1770, but in fact it was Willem Janszoon, a Dutch navigator, in 1606. English explorer William Dampier charted the west coast in 1688 while Willem De Vlamingh charted the southwestern coast in 1696, all before Captain Cook arrived.

02 ... but Cook claimed it
After sighting the south-eastern corner of Australia, Cook claimed the land as England’s possession and named the area New South Wales. After his ship Endeavour entered Botany Bay on 29 April 1770, Captain Cook wrote about Aboriginal people on the island: “All they seem’d to want was us to be gone.”

03 Tasmania was considered part of the mainland
Matthew Flinders was an English explorer, naval officer and navigator who sailed around the entirety of Australia and mapped much of its coastline. He and George Bass were the first Europeans to discover that Tasmania was in fact an island, and they then sailed around it.

04 It wasn’t called Australia until 1817
Before the Dutch arrived, the land was known only as ‘Terra Australis Incognita’ or ‘Unknown South Land’. The Dutch called it New Holland. The name Australia, derived from the Latin for ‘south’, was popularised by Flinders from 1804, but it was not officially used until 13 years later in 1817.

05 The French were just days too late
In 1788, the first British citizens arrived in Australia to establish a penal colony. The faster ships entered Botany Bay on 19 January, while slower ones arrived the day after. Just days later, on 24 January, two French ships came ashore but they were too late to claim Australia for their own.

AT A GLANCE

Plenty set out in the hope of finding the large southern land, but not all made it successfully. Discovered in the 17th century and claimed as a British possession, Australia is now home to more than 24 million people and is one of the richest countries in the world.
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What’s more, you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing you’re helping us to train and equip courageous anti-poaching rangers. And you’ll discover what it takes – and how it feels – to help save a species.

Yes, I would like to adopt a snow leopard today

Please indicate how much you would like to give each month

I would like to give £3  £5  £7  £10  £15

My choice £_________ each month (min. £3)

Purchaser details

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3. Branch sort code - - - - - - - - - -

4. Bank or Building Society account number

6. Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay WWF-UK Direct Debits from the account detailed on the instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with WWF-UK and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society. Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instruction for some types of account.

Signature(s): Date:

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After the loss of the Thirteen Colonies in the American War of Independence, Britain had a problem - it needed somewhere new to keep the empire's most dangerous under lock and key. In January 1787, a new idea was hatched - to transport the prisoners to Australia.

Prison ships were, at their peak, sent out twice a year in May and September. The journeys could take as long as six months and were a harsh concoction of tough labour and atrocious conditions. On 26 January 1788, 11 British ships under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip landed in Botany Bay, which would become the first prison colony Down Under. In total, 160,000 men, women and children were sent to Australia over about 80 years. The convict labour was used to create the first colonial infrastructure and a new nation was born.

Did you know?
Seven out of every eight convicts were male and their ages ranged from as young as nine to as old as 80.

The route of the First Fleet
England-Canary Islands-Brazil-Cape of Good Hope-Botany Bay

The night watch
At 9pm, the night watch would begin for the wardens. The use of candles and oil lamps for light was restricted and when the call came to "hatten down the hatches" in bad weather, the conditions could become almost unbearable.

A ticket out of hardship
Life on the ships was tough but for some it was better than staying at home. Convicts were taken on board in shackles and could be kept in chains for the entirety of the journey. Nevertheless, it is believed that some premeditated their crimes to gain access to the ships in the hope of beginning a new life in Australia away from poverty.

Below deck
The prisoners were kept below decks of the floating jail. While ventilators were installed to help with air circulation, it was gloomy down below. Convicts were only allowed up above for exercise and duties. When livestock and plants were brought on board for food, conditions became even more cramped.
Military pensioners
A further measure to keep the prisoners in check was the hiring of military pensioners in a government emigration scheme. Helping out with the smooth running of the ship, they would work as guards and often their families travelled with them. Upon arrival in Australia, the pensioners were free to settle in the new colony.

Problems from the start
On the long journey, the cramped and unhygienic conditions meant disease was often rife. In the first few years, severe cholera and typhoid epidemics hit the ships, and diseases like scurvy and dysentery meant not all prisoners would make it to Australia.

Unruly officers
Naval agents were tasked with maintaining standards on the vessels but they couldn’t be everywhere at once. The officers often took matters into their own hands, harshly beating the convicts and neglecting their rights. The crew were meant to clean and fumigate the living areas regularly but often declined to do their duties.

Living conditions
Bunks were lined up either side of the deck and separated from each other by boards, and the men, women and children slept in hammocks with two blankets on top. The portholes were barred and the poop deck was reserved solely for the crew. The men were meant to be provided with clothing but on some ships the funds meant to clothe the prisoners were pocketed by greedy captains.

The ship’s doctors
Common ailments ranged from seasickness to measles. To prevent this, surgeons on board were tasked with maintaining the health of the inmates. As well as doctors, religious instructors were on hand to provide for the crew members’ spiritual needs.

Discipline
Strict discipline kept the convicts in order. One common punishment was being ‘boxed’, which involved the offender being put in a confined space below deck where they could not lie down or stand, and instead were forced to sit for extended periods.

### Monday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4am</td>
<td>Prisoners admitted on deck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30am</td>
<td>Prisoners take up their beds and hammocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Ship’s company wash upper deck and water closets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Breakfast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>One man from each mess allowed on deck to wash up nets amulets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Prison and prisoners inspected, then assembled on deck for prayers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>One half of the prisoners sent on deck for exercise the other half being arranged in schools with the religious instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Dinner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Deck to be swept up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>The other half of the prisoners to be admitted on deck for exercise while the remainder arranged in school with the religious instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td>Down all beds and hammocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>Supper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Prayers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Petty officer of the day and night master on deck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8pm</td>
<td>Down all prisoners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9pm</td>
<td>Rounds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
They’re romanticised as English Highwaymen and Frontier outlaws: 150 years of Australian storytelling evokes an image of the Bushrangers, oppressed by colonial authorities, living by their wits and robbing caravans to feed their families. They were certainly a product of the society that had shunned them in the most explicit way - by being transported to break rocks on the other side of the world. Britain was to blame for their existence and more than 2,000 Bushrangers, across several generations from the 1850s to the turn of the 20th century, were responsible for much of the crime in the Outback. Bushranger Ned Kelly was a legend in his lifetime, and his death by hanging following his capture at the Glenrowan shootout on 28 June 1880 marked the end of an era in Australia.

ROUSE THE RANGERS
The Kelly Gang, consisting of Joe Byrne, Steve Hart and the two brothers Dan and Ned Kelly, were wanted men with a reward of $8,000 Australian dollars on their heads by the time they decided to make a stand. They rode across Victoria towards the town of Glenrowan, forcing two railway line repairmen at gunpoint to sabotage the lines in order to derail the special police train that would inevitably head their way.

RIDE INTO TOWN
The gang arrived at Glenrowan and the townsfolk gave themselves up. There was no resistance, partly because of Kelly’s fearsome reputation, but also because he had many sympathisers among the laymen of Australia. In its effort to crush the Kelly Gang, the State Police had given the lands department a list of friends and family of the Kelly Gang. No one on that list was permitted to take up land. Rather than break a potential rebellion, it galvanised Kelly’s supporters.

PARTY TIME
Having taken over the town, there was little left to do but to wait for the cops. Their 62 captives were held in Mrs Jones’ Hotel and were treated well, by all accounts. Booze was passed around, music was played and people danced - the captors even made merry with their hostages, although Ned wanted to keep a clear head and didn’t drink.
METAL FATIGUE
Perhaps inspired by the classic *Lorna Doone* novel, in which the outlaws fight in iron armour, Ned had constructed four suits of armour for himself and the other members of his gang from plough blades. These were laid out in preparation for further confrontation. They were heavy, weighing more than 40 kilograms each, restricted movement and made horse riding impossible. Critically, they didn’t cover their legs.

CAPTURE THE CONSTABLE
Ned, Joe plus four of the townsfolk rode out of town to capture Constable Bracken and remove any support he might provide to the state police. This was peaceful enough: once Bracken was disarmed, schoolmaster Thomas Curnow stayed with Bracken to keep an eye on him, while Kelly told Bracken that one of the gang would check up on him during the night.

QUICK, IT’S THE COPS!
In the early hours, Constable Bracken heard the train coming and rushed out to warn the driver of the sabotaged tracks, despite Kelly’s warning. He informed the police that Ned Kelly and his gang were holed up in the hotel in the town. Meanwhile, Joe Byrne had been alerted to the safe arrival of the police at the train station and the Kelly Gang rushed to don their clunky armour. Seven policemen accompanied by five Aboriginal trackers made their way to Mrs Jones’ Hotel and unleashed a volley of gunfire.

IRON OUTLAWS
Suited up, the four outlaws exchanged fire with the police on the veranda, as the officers fanned out and surrounded the hotel. A bullet hit Superintendent Hare on his left wrist. He continued to fight but lost so much blood from the wound that he eventually had to be taken away. Around dawn, more police arrived from nearby towns, reinforcing the siege by about 30 men. Dan Kelly, Steve Hart and Joe Byrne had already been killed, and the hostages were released as Ned Kelly set about planning his final assault.

“I AM DONE”
Ned managed to surprise the police from the rear, appearing like an apparition from the Bush, clad in his armour and also wearing a long white trench coat. The bullets fired at him by the police bounced off his iron chest plate, and Ned returned fire with his revolver until Sergeant Steele noticed that Kelly’s lower half was unprotected. He took aim at his legs and felled Ned with two shots. The police quickly converged on the fallen outlaw to disarm him, as Kelly gave himself up, crying, “I am done, I am done!”

Kelly must have known there was no way he’d get anything less than the death penalty: he was sentenced to hanging and died on 11 November 1880.
INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS
Meet the people who overcame prejudice to achieve great things

ARCHIE ROACH
1956-PRESENT
Archie Roach is an award-winning musician and singer, songwriter and guitarist. His 1990 album Charcoal Lane won him two ARIA awards (Australian Record Industry Association) and was one of Rolling Stone magazine’s Top 50 albums in 1992. His most famous song, Took The Children Away, draws on his own experience of the Stolen Generation, when Indigenous children were forcibly taken from their families. The song received a Human Rights Achievement Award, which was the first in its history to be awarded to a songwriter.

ODDGEROO NOONUCCAL
1920-93
Leaving school at 13, Noonuccal first worked as a domestic servant in Brisbane. In 1941, she enlisted in the Australian Women’s Army Service as a switchboard operator before being invalided in 1943. Noonuccal began writing poetry in the 1950s. Her first collection, We Are Going, made her one of Australia’s bestselling poets, and she was the first Aboriginal person to become a published poet. Carrying strong political undertones, her poetry helped in the recognition of Aboriginal rights.

ALBERT NAMATJIRA
1902-59
Albert Namatjira was a successful artist and a celebrity in his lifetime. He became fascinated by Western art after seeing an exhibition by European artists including Rex Battarbee. Offering to be Battarbee’s caneleer in return for painting lessons, Namatjira became a renowned watercolour artist with just two months of tuition. Holding exhibitions across Australia, his landscapes showcased the beauty of his country. Due to his success, he was the first Aboriginal person granted Australian citizenship.

WILLIAM LANNE
1835-69
Also known as King Billy, William Lanne was the last full-blooded Aboriginal Tasmanian male and is known for the mistreatment of his body that followed his death. With both the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal Society of Tasmania wanting to examine his remains, the ensuing arguments resulted in his posthumous decapitation, his skull being stolen and his hands and feet being removed to prevent collection of samples. This horrific treatment led to legislation being passed that meant medical experiments must gain prior permission.
DAVID UNAIPON 1872-1967
Featured on the Australian $50 note, Unaipon was a spokesperson, inventor and writer who made significant contributions to science and literature. Said to be the Australian Leonardo da Vinci, his most well known invention was a modified hand-piece to be used in sheep shearing, which revolutionised the wool industry. Unaipon submitted patents for 19 inventions during his lifetime, including a centrifugal motor and a helicopter design modelled on a boomerang.

FANNY COCHRANE SMITH 1834-1905
In 1876, Cochrane Smith was recognised as the last full-blooded Tasmanian Aboriginal female and received 120 hectares of land from the government. She was proud of her heritage, and people would come to watch her perform traditional songs, dances and stories. In 1899 and 1903, she made recordings on wax cylinders. These remain the only recorded examples of Tasmanian Indigenous language and traditional songs.

CATHY FREEMAN 1973-PRESENT
In 1990, aged 16, Freeman became the first Indigenous Australian to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal as part of the 4x100 metres relay team. Four years later, Freeman took another gold, and during her lap of honour, flew both the Aboriginal and Australian flag, for which she was reprimanded. In protest of Australia’s mistreatment of its Indigenous peoples, Freeman was asked by campaign groups to boycott the 2000 Olympics, but she refused. The only athletics competitor for Australia, Freeman took home the 400 metres gold medal, Australia’s 100th overall, and proudly flew both her flags once more to a roaring crowd. Her success brought attention to the prejudices faced by Indigenous Australians every day.

“Disappointment and adversity can be catalysts for greatness”
Cathy Freeman

EDDIE KOIKI MABO 1936-92
Terra Nullius - “land belonging to no one” - was a principle enacted in Australia prior to European settlement, denying Indigenous people possession of the land they had occupied. In 1982, five Indigenous Meriam people, led by Eddie Mabo, began a legal claim for their traditional lands in the Torres Strait. Ten years later, a ruling was given in favour of native title over lands, abolishing terra nullius and establishing legal precedent for native ownership throughout Australia. Mabo passed away shortly before the decision was made. He was buried in a traditional ceremony for Meriam kings.

On 3 June every year, the life and achievements of Eddie Mabo are celebrated on Mabo Day.

Members of David Unaipon’s family sought compensation amid claims that the bank used his image without permission.

An ecstatic Freeman celebrates her victory at the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

Bonner came from a simple background and received almost no formal education.

When Mabo’s tombstone was vandalised, he was re-interred on his native Murray Island.

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© Getty Images, Rex Features
Horses were initially considered unsuitable for the terrain at Gallipoli but were soon thrust into action regardless. Reinforcing the infantry, the regiments played a mostly defensive role except for assaults such as at the Battle of the Nek, where hundreds were shot down by Ottoman machine guns.

The Australian digger hat was first adopted in 1885. It was made of khaki fur felt and had a puggaree wrapped around the outside. Some would be festooned with emu plumes and all would be folded on the right side to allow a rifle to be easily slung over the wearer’s shoulder.

The jacket was made of wool or cotton and had vented cuffs to help keep the wearer cool. Extra rounds would be held in a bandolier draped across the body or ammunition patches attached to the belt. An Australian badge would be worn proudly on either shoulder.

Each member of the Light Horse Regiment was issued with a .303 SMLE MK III rifle complete with leather sling. For close-quarters combat, a 1907 Pattern Hooked Quillion Bayonet was attached to duke it out with Ottoman sabres.

A British Universal Pattern, the saddle was used not just by the Australians but also British, Canadians, New Zealanders and South Africans. A small blanket was used as a saddle cloth to absorb shocks and make the ride more comfortable. Saddle wallets provided extra space for cargo.

The list of essential equipment for each recruit included a haversack, a Sam Browne waist belt, compass, binoculars, shovel and a water bottle. The spurred regulation boots were lace up and the tan leather leggings had a spiral strap design.
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NERO: ROME'S DEADLIEST TYRANT
He slaughtered Christians, murdered his loved ones and possibly set Rome ablaze, but who was the real man behind the myth of the monstrous Emperor Nero?

Emperor Nero was going to die. The senate had ordered his death, and the last remnant of control he had was to claim his death himself. Nero paced back and forth, muttering the same words over and over again: “What an artist dies in me.”

All his friends had abandoned him, and his own dark acts had led him to this spot, to this moment, but still he refused to acknowledge it. He wasn’t a ruthless killer, he was just misunderstood – an artist. What a pity for the world to lose such a remarkable artist. In the distance, he heard the rumble of hooves: they were coming for his blood, but he would not give it to them. They had called him greedy, frivolous, self-indulgent and now he would be – his blood was his own, not the senate’s or the usurpers, and blood was all Emperor Nero had left.

When Nero was born on 15 December 37 CE, the Julio-Claudian dynasty had been ruling the Roman Empire for more than 50 years. This line, through adoption, could be traced back to the famed and celebrated Julius Caesar himself. Since his death, the man had taken on an almost god-like status, and those ‘descended’ from him were the only ones deemed worthy to rule the kingdom he had forged. Originally born as Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, some believe that Nero was doomed to his later barbaric nature due to his parentage. His father, Gnaeus, was known as a dangerous and violent man, who had been charged with treason, adultery and incest. It is said that when he was congratulated on the birth of his son, he proclaimed that anything born to he and his wife would be a “disaster”.

Gnaeus was dead before Nero would even remember him. Instead, it would be his mother who would play the most influential role in his life, and Gnaeus was right to doubt the purity of...
THE DYNASTY OF AUGUSTUS

I. Julius Caesar
After fighting a bitter civil war against the Senate that wished to rein in the famous general, Caesar was victorious and claimed a position of unrivalled power.

II. Augustus
Caesar declared Augustus, his great-nephew, as his adopted son and heir in his will. He became the empire’s first emperor, but in reality he was also a military dictator.

III. Tiberius
Tiberius was not Augustus’s biological son. Augustus took him as his adopted son when Tiberius married his daughter, Julia the Elder, in a trend that would continue for 30 years.

IV. Caligula
Part of the newly established Julio-Claudian dynasty, Caligula was the nephew of Tiberius, who became his adopted son and, ultimately, his heir.

V. Claudius
Claudius was ostracised from his powerful family due to his deafness and limp. However, at Caligula’s assassination, he was the last male in his family and thus crowned emperor.

VI. Nero
The final emperor of the Julio-Claudian dynasty, Nero was adopted by Claudius, his grand-uncle, to become his heir. Nero was implicated in conspiring Claudius’s death.
of his wife. Agrippina was a woman forged in fire - she had lived to see her mother, Agrippina the Elder, and two of her brothers arrested, exiled and starved to death; she had been forced to marry a detestable man she loathed and she had been exiled by her own brother, Caligula. It is no wonder that Agrippina had been forced to turn herself into steel to survive, she was done being passed around like a chess piece - she wanted control, and it started with marrying the emperor Claudius. Agrippina was a sly woman, well versed in the subtleties of the Roman court, and by using her web of political alliances, she was married to Claudius – despite the fact she was his uncle.

Although Claudius had his own son, Britannicus, he was still young and in a society with high mortality rates, so 13-year-old Nero was swiftly made his heir. Agrippina couldn’t be emperor herself; she was, after all, a woman. But she could control it so that her own son sat on the throne, and he was just an inexperienced youth who would easily bend to her will. To further solidify her son’s position, she had him married to Octavia, Claudius’s daughter. Agrippina’s influence can be seen from this coin that features her image alongside her son - a very rare occurrence.

Ancient sources state that she poisoned her husband with a plate of mushrooms, others suspect that Agrippina had nothing to do with Claudius’s death. However, considering the timing of the emperor’s demise, a natural death seems an all-too-convenient explanation. In 54 CE, before he could officially re-instate his own son as heir, Claudius passed away and the position of emperor fell to Nero. It is unknown if Nero played a part in the poisoning, or even if he was privy to the details, but it is peculiar that from then on, Nero proclaimed mushrooms “the food of the gods.”

To the public, Nero was a welcome change. In fact, the early part of his reign was hailed as a ‘golden age’. Nero was obsessed with personal popularity - more than anything he wanted to be liked. In his early years he abolished capital punishment, lowered taxes, gave more rights to slaves and gave aid to other cities. He loved the arts and he put on lavish games, concerts, chariot races and tournaments. To the people, it seemed that he was genuinely interested in being a good ruler, but it is likely he was still worried about the ever-looming threat of Claudius’s true son claiming the throne. If the people liked him, then it was less likely they would support his rival. To Nero, popularity meant power.

However, things at home were less than stable. Nero was only 17 when he became emperor, making him the youngest ever to assume the throne up until that point. Nero’s ascension not only transformed him into an emperor, but also into a man. While his mother’s scheming and influence had been useful in the struggle for succession, now he was ruler he had his own ambitions, many of which did not involve her. Having a mother figure so strong and domineering was plainly frustrating to the ambitious young man, and, much to his mother’s annoyance, he began to rely more on the advice of his advisers. His adviser’s opinions were clear - Agrippina wasn’t to be trusted.

With the relationship souring, Nero purposely began to act out. He had long loathed the political marriage he had been forced into with Octavia and instead began an affair with a former slave. When his outraged mother found out and demanded he rid himself of her, Nero instead began living with her as his wife. It was a very unsuitable message - Nero wasn’t a child anymore, and his mother didn’t control him. Nero swiftly moved Agrippina out of the palace, denied her the protection of the Praetorian Guard and banned her from the gladiatorial contests.

Agrippina, however, wasn’t one to go down quietly. Finally realising that she had completely lost grip on a son who had inherited her own ruthless ambition, she turned her attention elsewhere, to the one other person who could...
claim the throne and reinstate her power - Britannicus. He was still a minor, but suddenly, in 55 CE, the day before he was due to be declared an adult, Claudius's true son died while at a banquet. Agrippina had taught her son two things: how to succeed, and how to kill - and now he was a master of both.

In 58 CE, Nero finally decided he was finished with his loveless marriage and declared his wish to marry another - Poppaea Sabina. However, his mother refused to stay quiet and let her opposition to the divorce be heard clearly among the Roman population, who also did not wish Nero to divorce Octavia. Feeling his support waning and finally pushed to breaking point, Nero made a decision - it was time to rid himself of his interfering mother once and for all.

Nero's decision to kill his mother was not a sudden, rash one. It was thought out and planned down to the last detail. At first he had experts craft a device that could be affixed to her ceiling and would then crush her in her sleep. When that proved too complicated, he opted for a boat made to sink. However, Agrippina escaped by swimming to the shore. Finally, out of options, he returned to tradition and had her stabbed to death.

Shortly after Agrippina's murder, Nero began to change. Perhaps it was something to do with murdering his own mother that haunted his mind. Whether it was guilt or something animal within him being unleashed, the kind, fair ruler that the people loved seemed to vanish almost overnight. Nero had always been self-indulgent, but his hedonistic lifestyle became so over the top that it began to sicken the very people who had once loved him.

He spent an outrageous amount of money on himself and his artistic pursuits and began to give public performances, an action criticised as shameful by many ancient historians. He forbade anyone from leaving while he performed, and some likely inflated accounts write of women giving birth in the arena and men flinging themselves off the high walls to escape the boredom. If Nero had simply been a hedonistic ruler, that would not have been so terrible. He had always been lavish and craved the people's attention, but now he was cruel too. This cruelty was directed at the woman he likely viewed as the last thorn in his side - his wife.

With nobody to oppose him, Nero divorced the nation's darling, Octavia, and banished her on grounds of infertility. This left him free to marry Poppaea, by that point heavily pregnant. Eventually Nero bowed to public protests and

“The same man who had abolished capital punishment began executing anyone who he suspected of conspiring against him”
after promising them power equivalent to that power by dominance. Over this period, he slowly have power by popularity, then he would have Nero's rivals were eliminated. Although his murderous actions could be chalked up to rage and suspicion, it did mean one thing – transformed him into a bloodthirsty animal, memories of his mother and wife, and the guilt a t a party. It is said that Nero was haunted by the historian Tacitus is right to say that it was in order to abolish that rumour that Nero tried to pin the blame on the Christians. Rome had frequent fires, but this one was clearly exceptional: it lasted six days, plus a resurgence of another three days, and damaged more than two-thirds of the city's districts. The Emperor Domitian was to have altars to Neptune built along the edge of the affected area. Arson is unlikely to be the cause, as the Moon was full on 17 July 64 CE, two days after the fire, making the date a bad choice, since men with torches would have been easily visible. Arson by Nero is particularly unlikely as the fire did not start or even restart in the area used for the Golden House, and the flames damaged Nero's new apartments on the Palatine and Oppian Hills, which he clearly still liked as he stripped off the marble wall decoration for use in his new palace.

**Was Nero truly as monstrous as history has painted him?**

Half a century after his death, a Greek writer said, “Even now his subjects wish he was still alive and most men believe that he is.” False Neros in fact appeared in 69 CE, 79 CE and 88-89 CE, all young and all playing the lyre. This was in the west where Nero had performed at all the major festivals, showing his approval of Greek artistic appreciation. Rome and Italy did not share the idea that members of the governing elite should be artistic, so that neither Nero’s performances, nor even his patronage of the arts, could reduce the hostility he generated there by his extravagance and cruelty. Yet there endured a tradition that the first part of his reign, the Quinquennium Neronis, was a good period. He had good advisers who tried to steer him in the right direction, as is shown by the dedication to him in SS CE of a work on clemency by one of them, the philosopher Seneca. But Nero had already murdered his adoptive brother Britannicus and his mother Agrippina by 62 CE when his other adviser, Burrus, died, seriously reducing Seneca’s influence over his pupil who proceeded to rid himself of any remaining rivals and their relatives. It has not helped Nero’s reputation that his death marked the end of the Julio-Claudian dynasty, enabling the new rulers to justify their seizure of power by claiming to replace an evil tyrant.

**DID NERO START THE GREAT FIRE?**

**Expert bio:**

Miriam Griffin studied at Barnard College, New York, and at St Anne’s College, Oxford, where she read Greats. She served as tutorial fellow in Ancient History at Somerville College for 35 years until 2002. After retirement, she edited *The Classical Quarterly*. In 2008, Griffin was Langford Eminent Scholar at Florida State University. She is the author of books on Seneca and Nero, and has written extensively on Roman philosophy.

**Was Nero responsible for the Great Fire?**

The rumour of Nero’s responsibility for the fire of 64 CE goes back to his reign, for one of those who conspired against him a year later, when interrogated, reproached him with it. In fact, the rumour is contemporary with the event, if the historian Tacitus is right to say that it was in order to abolish that rumour that Nero tried to pin the blame on the Christians. Rome had frequent fires, but this one was clearly exceptional: it lasted six days, plus a resurgence of another three days, and damaged more than two-thirds of the city’s districts. The Emperor Domitian was to have altars to Neptune built along the edge of the affected area. Arson is unlikely to be the cause, as the Moon was full on 17 July 64 CE, two days after the fire, making the date a bad choice, since men with torches would have been easily visible. Arson by Nero is particularly unlikely as the fire did not start or even restart in the area used for the Golden House, and the flames damaged Nero’s new apartments on the Palatine and Oppian Hills, which he clearly still liked as he stripped off the marble wall decoration for use in his new palace.

let Octavia return, but not for long. Officially her death was deemed a suicide, but the truth was a badly kept secret: Nero had ordered her execution. Her popularity was turning the public against him, therefore she had to be eliminated. As the people wept, the emperor had her head sent to his new wife as a gift.

The people of Rome were not idiots, and the sudden death of Octavia and swift remarriage had made many people suspect Nero’s hidden murderous ways. Accusations of treason against the emperor began to emerge, but rather than heed this warning and lay low, he instead became more vicious than ever. The same man who had abolished capital punishment began executing anyone who he suspected of conspiring against him. Eventually this culminated to people who said any bad word about him; one commander was even executed for making a negative comment at a party. It is said that Nero was haunted by memories of his mother and wife, and the guilt transformed him into a bloodthirsty animal, killing without moderation or consideration. Although his murderous actions could be chalked up to rage and suspicion, it did mean one thing – Nero’s rivals were eliminated.

Nero seemed to have decided that if he couldn’t have power by popularity, then he would have power by dominance. Over this period, he slowly usurped authority from the Senate. Just ten years after promising them power equivalent to that they had held under the republic, Nero had all but stripped the Senate of their worth. To the emperor, this meant more power for him, but the Senate was also full of dangerous, ambitious men, and ignoring them would later prove his downfall.

In 64 CE, something even more devastating than Nero’s rage distracted the Roman public. A great fire consumed the city, destroying three districts, damaging seven and leaving thousands of citizens homeless. Accidental fires were not uncommon at the time, but a rumour soon sprung up that it was Nero himself who had started it in order to clear space for his new luxury complex, the Domus Aurea. Although it is impossible to confirm who ignited the fire, the fact that his subjects all believed Nero capable of starting it to benefit himself is indicative of how far the beloved emperor had fallen. Nero was quick to shift the blame, pointing the fingers at Christians, and in doing so began years of torture and persecution.
Nero’s self indulgence is no well kept secret, the emperor did not shrink at the idea of spending enormous amounts on himself while his subjects suffered. After the great fire of 64 CE destroyed vast areas of land, Nero saw an opportunity to build the grandest palace the world had ever seen. Nero seized this land, actually owned by several aristocrats, and set about building his dream home – the Domus Aurea or ‘Golden House’.

Enlisting the help of the celebrated architect Severus and the engineer Celer, Nero created a pleasure palace unlike any seen before. The vast complex included landscaped gardens, a huge man-made lake and an imperial retreat with 150 beautifully decorated rooms. Glimmering with delicate gold leaf, semi-precious stones and ivory, upon the project’s completion Nero proclaimed, “Now I can begin to live like a human being.”

After Nero’s suicide just four years later, the lake was drained and vast areas of the palace were torn down by Vespasian, who also began constructing the Colosseum where the lake had stood. Baths were also later built on the land. It wasn’t until the Renaissance that interest surrounding the remains was renewed - many famous painters explored the ruins, marvelled at the beauty and were inspired in their own work.

The Domus Aurea

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**Palace entrance**
The courtyard that served as the main gateway into the complex was along the via Sacra. The entrance featured a towering 30-metre-high gilt-bronze statue of Nero himself, also known as the Colossus Neronis.

**Banquet rooms**
Despite there being no evidence of a kitchen on site, there were countless banquet rooms. In the West Wing alone, one rectangular courtyard was surrounded by at least 50 banquet rooms.

**Baths**
A staple in Roman life, Nero had a luscious bath house built on the grounds. The bath featured running cold and hot water, and water was a main feature throughout the complex - with waterfalls running down the walls, ornamental fountains and pools built into the floors.

**Gardens**
The palace was surrounded by a luscious landscaped garden covering 50 hectares. The gardens included ploughed fields, vineyards, pastures and woodlands. It is also recorded that domestic and wild animals roamed freely in the gardens.

**The room of the Golden Vault**
The Golden Vault was in the West Wing and featured a huge gilded ceiling and marble panelling. The main attraction, however, was a towering painting of Zeus abducting Ganymede. These beautiful and innovative frescoes were featured throughout the entire Golden House and would go on to inspire artists such as Raphael.
Across Rome, Christians were arrested, devoured by dogs, crucified and burned. There are even accounts of Nero using oil-soaked Christians as torches in his gardens.

The public had been right about one thing: Nero did want to build his huge villa, and the newly cleared land made the perfect spot. However, after excessively spending on his own artistic pursuits, the emperor was running low on funds. In order to pay for his ambitious building project, he sold senior positions in public office to the highest bidders, raised taxes and took money from temples. Nero's frivolous spending had caused the currency to devalue for the first time in the empire's history, and to try to rebuild his funds, he reinstated a policy that allowed him to confiscate property from those suspected of treason.

For many people, this was the final straw. In 65 CE, a plot was hatched to assassinate Nero and place Piso, an aristocrat, in his place. However, the plot was discovered before it could be carried out. Many of the men involved were Nero's previous advisers and close friends, but Nero showed no restraint in having them all executed. Killing his enemies had worked very well for Nero so far, but that was when he only had a few rivals. Now almost all of Rome hated him, and he couldn't kill everyone.

Three years later, Gaius Julius Vindex, a governor, publicly rebelled against Nero's harsh tax policies. He was swiftly joined by another governor, Servitius Sulpicius Galba. Although Gaius's forces were squashed and Gaius executed, Galba still lived, and as the main living force against Nero, he quickly gained support. Nero declared him a public enemy, but this seemed only to increase his follower numbers. Even the prefect of Nero's Praetorian Guard abandoned him and declared his allegiance to Galba. Many men who had likely been too scared to act alone saw this as their chance to finally raise their voices against the emperor and his greedy, ruthless ways, and Galba's support grew and grew.

Nero was self indulgent and tyrannical, but he wasn't stupid. He knew it was time to run. He decided to flee east to the provinces that were still loyal to him. However, even his own officers refused to help him, quoting a line from Vergil's Aeneid: “Is it so dreadful a thing then to die?” Escape was too good for Nero. Disgrace was too kind to the man who had slaughtered and destroyed the lives of his people. Death was what the people, and his own men, craved.

Nero had no option but to return home to his palace, his last place of sanctuary. However, he struggled to sleep, and when he awoke, he found that the palace guard had also abandoned him. Anxious and panic stricken, he sent hasty messages to his friends' chambers, but no replies came. Even they had forsaken him.

Nero had lost everything - his safety, his kingdom, and his cherished popularity. He called for anyone adept with a sword to come and end his life, but nobody appeared, and his cries echoed in his empty palace: “Have I neither friend nor foe?”

The emperor managed to escape to a villa six kilometres outside the city with four loyal freedmen, where he ordered them to dig a grave for him. Before it was finished, a message arrived - Nero had been declared a public enemy and the Senate were to execute him by beating. It is unlikely that this would have occurred: there was, after all, still some devotion to the Julio-Claudian family, of which Nero was the last in line. If there was no loyalty to Nero, the bloodline at least would give him a chance of survival.

Nero, however, did not see this. He had been abandoned by everyone, he had lost everything, and he was convinced his life was next. First he begged one of his companions to kill him, an act they refused to comply with, and then, upon hearing the horsemen approaching, he had no option but to take his own life. Even here he failed; consumed by fear, he forced his secretary to do the deed for him. Nero still lived as the horsemen entered, and he survived long enough to utter his last words as the men struggled to stop the bleeding: “Too late! This is fidelity!” On 9 June 68 CE, on the anniversary of Octavia's death, the last in the Julio-Claudian line was dead.

By the time he reached Rome, Galba had already been proclaimed emperor. As favoured as he was, Galba's reign would not be a peaceful one and he would be dead within a year. Nero had not been a good emperor, but with his ancient line dried up, chaos claimed the city and war waged. Nero's legacy, however, would live on. To Christians he became a figure so rooted in pain and anguish that he took on the form of the Antichrist. A rumour began that Nero had not died at all and instead would return. This became a legend almost Christ-like in its retelling, surviving hundreds of years after his death, even into the 5th century, and at least three impostors proclaiming to be Nero led rebellions in his name. Because of these things and the influence they had on historians, it is almost impossible to distinguish who Nero really was. Today he has taken on a super-villain status that increases with every retelling of his life. The real man behind the myth may be dead forever, but the spectre of Emperor Nero, and the pain he brought his people, flourishes to this day.
Bluffer’s Guide

The Boxer Rebellion

JANUARY-MAY 1900
Empress Dowager Cixi agrees to lend her support to the Boxers as months of pillaging and looting in the Chinese countryside commences.

Peking is stormed by the rebels. The Boxers and the Chinese Imperial Army besiege the legations where diplomats, civilians and soldiers are holding out.

To the south east of the capital, the coalition forces capture the city giving the eight nations a base from which to strike the Boxers in Peking.

Chinese peasants form a secret society known as Yihequan (Righteous and Harmonious Fists), or Boxers, and begin to influence China’s northern territories.

Empress Dowager Cixi agrees to lend her support to the Boxers as months of pillaging and looting in the Chinese countryside commences.

Did you know?
The Boxers believed that magic and a trance-like state would protect them from the bullets from Western rifles.

1898
Chinese peasants form a secret society known as Yihequan (Righteous and Harmonious Fists), or Boxers, and begin to influence China’s northern territories.
As their discontent with foreign settlers in China reached fever pitch, the Boxers moved south from Shandong, openly preaching anti-Western beliefs and butchering Chinese Christians and Western missionaries. The massacre escalated and spread further south, gaining both momentum and manpower as chants of “kill the foreign devils” were heard far and wide. By May 1900, the rebellion reached the Chinese capital, Peking.

A secret deal made with Empress Dowager Cixi meant the Boxers could now turn their full attention to the foreign intervention they held in such contempt. All non-Chinese residents of the city were targeted and ended up cornered inside Peking’s International Legation quarter. A coalition relief force of US, British, Russian, French, German, Italian and Japanese soldiers was sent to extinguish the revolt that now had the Chinese Imperial Army on its side. The battle lasted until August when the trapped foreign diplomats were finally relieved. Peking was saved but fighting continued until October when the final few Boxers were beheaded. The Qing Dynasty never recovered and would come crashing down within 12 years.

The crushing defeat to Japan in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) initiated a period of unrest in Qing China. The humiliating loss infuriated the Chinese population, as control of both Korea and Taiwan had been lost. Japan had now supplanted China as the main powerhouse of the region and the blame was put on the shoulders of the European settlers who, for this new wave of nationalists at least, had been calling far too many of the shots since the days of the Opium Wars. The Western sphere of influence in China was now huge and companies made massive profits while the Chinese workers were paid very poorly for hard manual labour. Nationalist ideals swept over the country as the Boxers took up arms. The aim was to overthrow the Qing government and relieve China of all foreign imperialistic influence, restoring China’s past glories in the process.

What were the consequences?

The British diplomat was involved in the Battle of Peking and helped defend the foreign legations from the Boxers.

Empress Dowager Cixi
1835-1908
Cixi backed the Boxers’ aim to rid China of foreign intervention. She fled Peking after the rebellion was crushed.

Sir Claude MacDonald
1852-1915
This British diplomat was involved in the Battle of Peking and helped defend the foreign legations from the Boxers.

Alfred von Waldersee
1832-1904
The German was appointed commander-in-chief of the allied forces in China and helped crush the flagging Boxer resistance.
THE NAZI
For 16 days in the summer of 1936, the doors of the Third Reich opened to the world in one of the most memorable Olympics of all time.

On 26 April 1931, Berlin was pulled out of the hat at the 29th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The city had been chosen to host the 11th modern Olympic games and the German bid had beaten Barcelona and Istanbul to the post. To the IOC, Weimar Germany was a perfect choice of venue. A country whose economy and social situation had ebbed and flowed since the guns went silent on the Western Front, an Olympics held in the heart of Europe would reap huge social and diplomatic benefits. However, just like the rest of the world, they could not have foreseen what would happen just under two years later.

The ascension of the Nazi Party to power in Germany in 1933 sent shockwaves around the world, not least to the IOC. News of strict racial laws had been filtering out of Germany and a mass boycott was on the cards. As a result, the IOC forced the Third Reich to tone down its extremist ideology and, on the surface at least, the Nazis complied. Adolf Hitler was no sports fan but Joseph Goebbels convinced the Führer that it was a unique opportunity to promote Aryan ideals across the globe. The stage was set for a Nazi Olympics and the triumphant return of a new Germany to the international community.

**Realising the dream**

Germany had never held an Olympic games before. Berlin had been chosen as the host of the 1916 games but it was scuppered by the escalation of World War I. The German Olympic Committee was intent on...

**IN NUMBERS**

- **3,963** Number of athletes who competed. 3,632 were men, 331 were women.
- **49** Nations competed at the Olympics, the most ever at the time.
- **131.5 HECTARES** Size of the specially constructed Reich Sports Field.
- **72** Age of the oldest participant: Austrian Arthur von Pongracz.
- **6** The most medals won by an Olympian: German Konrad Frey.
- **7.5 million Reichsmarks** Total ticket revenue.
- **42 MILLION REICHSMARKS** Cost of the Reich Sports Field Complex.
outshining the efforts of the Los Angeles 1932 games, which suffered poor attendances and troubled finances due to the Great Depression. Germany went all out in its preparations for the games with a new 100,000-seat stadium and 150 other Olympic buildings built especially for the event. The ‘Olympiastadion’ was one of the biggest stadiums in the world and part of the all-new Reich Sports Field complex. Away from the impressive stadium complex, Berlin was being kitted out as a grand host city. Along the Unter den Linden Street and outside the Reich’s Chancellery, huge statues were erected echoing classic Greek and Roman symbolism. The Berlin Summer Olympics was to be the first to be televised and benefited from the videography of Leni Riefenstahl, who was handed a cool $7 million and entrusted with a team of 33 camera operators to film the event. On arrival, the international media were no doubt impressed by the Nazi welcome, with transmitting vans and the equipment to broadcast in 28 languages, as well as Zeppelins to carry newsreel footage to other European cities for rapid transmission of events to more than 41 countries.

The acid test for the Germans was gaining the trust of the international community. Boycott threats came from the USA, Britain, France, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands and Sweden. Even within Germany itself, not all were behind the idea of hosting the Olympics. This dissent primarily came from the left wing of German politics with Arbeiter Illustrierte Zeitung (The Worker Illustrated) firmly opposed. One man who did support American participation was the president of the United States Olympic Committee, Avery Brundage. Championing the idea that “the Olympic Games belong to the athletes and not the politicians,” after a trip to Berlin he claimed that from what he had witnessed, Jews and other supposed enemies of the Nazi state were being treated fairly.

Hitler and Minister of Propaganda Goebbels toned down their true intentions to Brundage and the watching world. Since the establishment of Nazi totalitarian control, all Jewish athletes had been banned from attending sporting facilities and expelled from competition. Come 1936, all traces of anti-Semitic propaganda had been hidden away and a false image of Nazi Germany successfully established. All anti-Semitic propaganda had been removed, Nazi tabloid Der Stürmer had been taken off newsstands and Olympic flags hung in the streets beside swastikas. Even the SA brownshirts greeted visitors with an uncharacteristic friendly smile. The Nazi hierarchy performed an elaborate cover up that even managed to hide the fact that the Jewish president of the German Olympic committee Dr Theodor Lewald had been replaced by SA member Hans von Tschammer und Osten, as well as the 600 Romani gypsies who had been arrested and forcibly relocated to the outskirts of Berlin between a cemetery and a sewage dump. With all these measures in place, the idea of a boycott melted away with only the Soviet Union (who had not been present at any of the Olympics it had been invited to) not attending what would be a world event. Goebbels had successfully drawn a curtain over the worst of Nazi oppression.

Resistance to the Berlin Olympics was initially so severe that a rival ‘People’s Olympiad’ was planned in Barcelona but was cancelled due to the Spanish Civil War

DID YOU KNOW?
The Hindenburg Zeppelin looms over the Olympiastadion, just under a year before its tragic demise
Let the Games begin

1936 saw the advent of the Olympic torch relay. The brainchild of sports administrator Carl Diem, 3,422 runners ran one kilometre each as the torch made the journey all the way from Olympia, Greece, the spiritual home of the Ancient Greek Olympics, to Berlin. The relay travelled through Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Austria and Czechoslovakia, countries that would later side with the Axis or come under its occupation during World War II. The man who carried the flame for the final leg was Siegfried Eifrig, who personified the link the Nazis believed the Third Reich had with the great civilisations of antiquity. Tall, blonde and blue-eyed, he brought the torch into the Olympiastadion and the games got under way on 1 August.

The two anthems Deutscher über Alles and Horst Wessel Lied rang out around the stadium as the Hindenburg airship did a flyby in what was a tremendous yet carefully rehearsed spectacle. A key moment came later as Hitler raised his arm in salute. Athletes from roughly half of the countries involved - including Afghanistan, Austria, Bulgaria, Bolivia, Bermuda and Iceland - all saluted back while other nations including Britain and the USA did not, receiving jeers from the largely German crowd in the process. The Americans even went...

An American hero

Jesse Owens’s daughter, Marlene Rankin, explains how the Olympics changed her father’s life

What do you know about the 1936 Olympics? Did your father talk about it?
Since I was not born then, I only know what I have read, seen on film, and gleaned from speeches I have heard my father make about his experience there. In our home, the 1936 Olympics was not a topic of conversation. There was always a room in the house where photos from it, and my father’s trophies and medals, were displayed.

Do you think your father’s achievements and contributions in Berlin have been remembered in the right spirit over the years?
I think that my father’s achievements and contributions in Berlin have been remembered in the right spirit, depending on who you ask. He was a rather shy young man who was extremely talented athletically and who loved what he did. He went to the Olympics to compete with the best the world had to offer. He was a humble young man who believed in himself and his teammates and the promise of America. He was a team player and had a tremendous sense of fair play.

There are conflicting views over whether Adolf Hitler refused to shake your father’s hand or acknowledged him in any way or not. Did Jesse ever speak of it and what is the truth?
I’ve heard my father say in speeches when asked the Hitler question. “I went to Berlin to run and not to shake hands with Hitler. I am here today and where Hitler is, I don’t know or care.” So I would conclude from that he did not shake hands with Hitler.

How do you think what happened at the 1936 Olympics changed your family’s life?
What happened in the 1936 Olympics made Jesse Owens. He became a hero to the American Black Community, an international star for his athletic accomplishments, and a celebrity to the American community at large. As such, it shaped his life. Though he never competed as an amateur athlete again, it placed him in an environment of opportunity that probably would not have been available to him had he not accomplished what he did in Berlin. His life became a series of tried opportunities that allowed him to find his strengths beyond athletics where he could make a living for himself and his family. His personality, charisma and new skills catapulted him into a celebrity life. The Jesse Owens Foundation was founded in 1980 after his untimely death by friends and family to perpetuate the spirit of Jesse Owens and his belief that the youth of any country is its greatest resource.
The Nazi Olympics

The stars of Berlin
The competitors who lit up the XI Olympiad

01 Hendrika (Rie) Mastenbroek
The first female athlete to win four medals at one Olympics, 17-year-old Mastenbroek was a talented Dutch swimmer at all strokes.
Achievements: gold medal 100-metre freestyle, gold medal 400-metre relay, gold medal 400-metre freestyle, silver medal 100-metre backstroke

02 Helene Mayer
The only athlete with Jewish ancestry to make the German team, Mayer justified her selection with some skilled fencing, duelling with her rival Hungary’s Iliona Schacheiner.
Achievement: silver medal fencing

03 Sohn Kee-Chung
Long distance runner Sohn was a Korean forced to fun under the flag of Japan. He signed the Olympic roster with a Korean flag in defiance.
Achievement: gold medal marathon

04 Jack Lovelock
Kiwi John Edward Lovelock had a rivalry with American runner Glenn Cunningham and both jostled for the top spot at the 1936 Olympics, with Lovelock winning the battle.
Achievement: gold medal 1,500 metres

05 Dhyan Chand
Considered one of the greatest field hockey players of all time, Indian Chand captained his nation and had already played in the 1928 and 1932 Olympics.
Achievement: gold medal field hockey

06 Helen Stephens
Helen Stephens left the 1936 Olympics undefeated and with two gold medals. She later served in the US Marine Corps during World War II.
Achievements: gold medal 100 metres, gold medal 4x100-metre relay

07 Majorie Gestring
At the tender age of just 13, American Gestring wowed the German crowds and became the youngest-ever female Olympic champion at women’s springboard diving.
Achievement: gold medal women’s springboard diving

08 Inge Sørensen
Even younger than Gestring was 12-year-old Inge Sørensen, who managed a bronze medal in swimming for her native Denmark.
Achievement: bronze medal 200-metre breaststroke

09 Luz Long
The German Olympian is remembered for his battles with American Jesse Owens. Hitler was incensed at the two Olympians being arm in arm during the awards ceremony.
Achievement: silver medal long jump

On the track and field
The day after the excitement of the opening ceremony, it was down to serious sporting business. The star of the show was undoubtedly Jesse Owens, who would win four gold medals in the 100 metres, 200 metres, 4x100-metre relay and long jump. The African-American’s exploits infuriated Hitler and he was labelled ‘Negro Owens’ by the German media, with all US black competitors branded ‘Black Auxiliaries’. The German people, however, were the polar opposite to the journalists, and chanted Owens’s name from the stands and pestered him for autographs at any opportunity. The Berlin Olympics was also the first year that basketball was played at a Games, and it was won by the US, who began their domination of the sport, beating Canada 19-8 in the final.

Despite not selecting world-class athletes such as tennis ace Daniel Prenn and formidable boxer Erich Seelig due to their Jewish roots, the Germans finished top of the medals table for the first and only time with a haul of 89 medals, far ahead of the USA in second place with 56. It wasn’t just the Germans not picking their competitors on talent...
American Jews Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller were both told they would not be running in the 4x100-metre relay and watched on as their nation triumphed with gold. Rumours persist that Brundage pressured the US coaching team to drop the two men, allegedly in fear of upsetting Hitler. Hungary trailed Germany and the USA in third place with ten golds while Britain could only manage tenth place. Japan were the only other nation other than the USA to break a European monopoly of the podium. A sad story to come from the Olympics was the death of Romanian boxer Nicolae Berechet. After being knocked out in the first round of the featherweight competition, he died mysteriously of blood poisoning a few days later.

Away from the hubbub of the Olympiastadion, IOC President Henri de Baillet-Latour laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. 1 August 1936 came days after the 22nd anniversary of the deployment of troops in the European theatre of World War I. The symbolism of this action was to demonstrate peace, making the outbreak of war three years later all the more tragic. A flamboyant opening ceremony and gestures of peace had given the world false hope of a peaceful and non-aggressive Nazi Germany.

**From Olympics to war**

The Berlin Olympic Games closed its doors on 16 August. Hitler's Germany had succeeded in hosting an event that portrayed the nation in a positive light to the international community, and the German victory in the medals table was a huge propaganda boost to the Nazi Party and their Aryan ideals. Leni Riefenstahl shot about 305,000 metres of film, which took a painstaking 18 months to edit. The result was the four-hour film *Olympia*, released in April 1938, and showcased just how the Olympics was taken and manipulated to uphold Nazi Aryan thought.

Hitler may not have been a sports fan, but he was so impressed with the Games that he reportedly claimed: “In 1940, the Olympic Games will take place in Tokyo but thereafter they will take place in Germany for all time to come.” Architect Albert Speer was even tasked with designing a 400,000-seat stadium for every future Olympics in Berlin, plans that would have been put in motion had Nazi Germany been triumphant in World War II. The Olympic ideals of international co-operation may have been against what the Führer stood for but even a national socialist despot now understood the political vehicle the Olympics had been for Nazi Germany. The success of the Olympics was a huge propaganda boost for Germany, and along with the Italian victories in both the 1934 and 1938 Football World Cups, helped prove that these new dictatorships could rival traditional democracies on the playing field.

Just two days after the end of the Games, the Nazi party was rocked by the death of Captain Wolfgang Fuerstner, the head of the Olympic Village. Although the story was initially covered up, it was revealed that the Jewish Fuerstner had committed suicide after learning he would be a victim of the returning Nuremberg Laws. The brains behind the expertly designed village had been forced to play second fiddle to the non-Jewish Werner Gilsa, and although the laws had been toned down during the Olympics, they were to be implemented once again. In the coming years, the Third Reich unleashed the fury of the Wehrmacht on the world and any social progress made during the spectacle that was the 1936 Berlin Olympics was lost. War was brewing, and attention soon turned from the track to the battlefield as the clouds of conflict once again amassed over Europe.
History of the Olympics

Despite a brief interlude of a few thousand years, the Games are still going strong.

1859
A fresh start
Greek businessman Evangelis Zappas sponsors the first modern Olympic Games in Athens. Athletes from Greece and the Ottoman Empire participate. He also provides funding for the refurbishment of the ancient stadium.

1890
Birth of the IOC
Baron Pierre de Coubertin founds the International Olympic Committee (IOC), with the aim of establishing an internationally rotating Olympic Games.

776BCE
Get set, go!
The first recorded Olympic Games take place. Several city-states and kingdoms of Ancient Greece take part. A cook called Coroebus becomes the first Olympic champion when he wins the only event—a 192-metre running race.

1896
Making a statement
African-American medallists Tommy Smith and John Carlos lift gloved fists in a Black Power salute as the US national anthem is played. Smith later says, “If I win, I am American, not a black American. But if I did something bad, then they would say I am a Negro.”

1972
The Munich massacre
17 people are killed when members of the Palestinian terrorist group Black September abduct Israeli team members. This includes a police officer who dies during a failed rescue attempt.

1984
Thrifty hosts
In order to restrict costs, Los Angeles uses only existing facilities except for a swim stadium and velodrome paid for by sponsors. As a result, the Games make $225 million in profit.

1988
The Nazi Olympics

1959

Welcome to the 1984 Olympic Games

Get set, go!
The first recorded Olympic Games take place. Several city-states and kingdoms of Ancient Greece take part. A cook called Coroebus becomes the first Olympic champion when he wins the only event—a 192-metre running race.
Women are allowed to compete for the first time during the 1900 Summer Olympics held in Paris. Sailor Helene de Pourtales becomes the first female Olympian.

Disabled athletes prove their worth
The Paralympics are created to promote the rehabilitation of soldiers after World War I. They are initially called the International Wheelchair Games.

At the infamous Nazi Olympics, Adolf Hitler watches Jesse Owens damage his ideas of Aryan supremacy by winning four gold medals.

The first Games organised by the IOC are held in Athens. 14 nations compete in 43 events, while the largest crowd ever to attend a sporting event watches on.

The Olympic flame is introduced for the first time. The torch relay, however, will not take place until 1936.

Women are allowed to compete for the first time during the 1900 Summer Olympics held in Paris. Sailor Helene de Pourtales becomes the first female Olympian.
Mary, Queen of Scots

Was Elizabeth's enemy number one a murder or a martyr?

Written by Alicea Francis

Adultery, murder, treason: Mary Stuart had been accused of many things in her life, but these were the crimes for which it would be ended. As her beloved butler led her up the steps of the execution scaffold, her hand remained steady in his and she held her head high, as if she were the guest of honour ascending the staircase to a ball. On the scaffold, her captor asked if she would like the comfort of a Protestant minister, and she angrily refused. Kneeling before the block, she prayed for her ladies in waiting to be spared, and for England and Scotland to return to Catholicism. Then, removing her veil and doublet, she revealed a velvet petticoat in crimson-brown - the colour of martyrdom. One of her ladies, weeping silent tears, stepped forward with a handkerchief and tied it over her mistress's eyes. With the courage of a lion, Mary placed her neck upon the execution block, and the deed was done.

Just as in death, the one-time queen of Scotland had lived her life with grace and majesty, despite being a pawn in both the hands of her male relatives and later her female cousin, Elizabeth I. Her father King James V died on 14 December 1542, when Mary was only six days old. All of a sudden this baby girl was the most powerful person in Scotland - at least, on paper. Scotland was a Catholic country, but the Protestant Reformation was sweeping Europe, and members of both sides grappled for the regency. In the end, it was a Protestant who ruled Scotland in Mary's place - the Earl of Arran, who was the great-grandson of James II and next in line to the throne. Meanwhile in England, Henry VIII took advantage of the regency to propose a marriage between the young queen and his son, Edward, in the hope that the two rival countries would finally be united. On 1 July 1543, the Treaty of Greenwich was signed, which promised that Mary would be married to Edward when she reached the age of ten. However, when Henry VIII intercepted Scottish merchants on their way to trade with their Catholic ally France, the Earl of Arran was outraged, and immediately converted to Catholicism. In December that year, the Treaty of Greenwich was overturned.

Henry was not a man who could be told 'no' easily. Determined that the union would go ahead, the king of England initiated a campaign of 'Rough Wooing', and took military action against the Scottish. Though he died just a few years later, his son Edward continued the campaign, and when the Scots suffered a heavy defeat at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh in 1547, they turned to the French for help. King
Hero or Villain?
MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

Mary stayed in this residence when she visited Jedburgh, on the Scottish border

Henry II proposed a marriage between Mary and his three-year-old son François. Arran agreed, and five-year-old Mary was sent to live at the French court.

While Mary was perfecting her Latin and needlework, the boy to whom she had previously been betrothed became ill with tuberculosis and died. With no heir, the next in line to the throne was his elder half-sister Mary Tudor. Her reign lasted five years, until her death in 1558, when her Protestant half-sister Elizabeth took the throne. Yet in the eyes of many Catholics, Elizabeth was illegitimate, and Mary Stuart was the rightful heir as the senior descendent of Henry VIII’s sister. In France, she and François were declared king and queen of England, and in 1559 king and queen consort of France when Henry II died from a jousting injury.

But their glory days were to be shortlived. In Scotland, the power of the Protestant Lords of the Congregation was rising, and they invited English troops into the country to help secure Protestantism. The French support withdrew, and in 1560 they accepted Elizabeth’s right to rule. That same year, François died following an ear infection, which led to an abscess in the brain. In France, Mary was no longer queen nor was she considered queen of England. She returned to her homeland, where as a Catholic she was regarded with suspicion, but she tolerated her Protestant privy council well – an indicator, perhaps, of her commitment to pursuing the English throne.

She sent an ambassador to the English court to put her case forward, but Elizabeth – although admitting that she knew no one with a better claim – refused to acknowledge Mary as the heir presumptive.

Instead, Mary turned her attention to finding a new husband. Her choice would prove disastrous. When her cousin Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, presented himself at the Scottish court, Mary immediately fell for him. He was young, handsome, and shared the queen’s passion for hunting and music. Like Mary, he was also a grandchild of Margaret Tudor, and a union between the two would help to strengthen their claim to the throne. They were married on 29 July 1565, much to the despair of Elizabeth, who knew that any child born to them would have an even stronger claim. But it wasn’t long before Darnley grew arrogant. Not content with just being king consort, he demanded the Crown Matrimonial, which would make him co-sovereign of Scotland and give him the right to rule in the case of Mary’s death. The queen refused, and in 1566, the marriage broke down. Darnley, fearing for his life, fled to his father’s estate, but was struck down with a fever. Mary insisted that he return to Edinburgh to recover, and she visited him daily, leading to rumours of reconciliation. But on the night of 9 February 1567, an explosion destroyed the house where Darnley was staying. The king consort was found dead in the garden, with ‘no burn nor a mark’ on the body. Suffocation was the suspected cause of death.

Suspect number one was James Hepburn, the earl of Bothwell. He and Mary were close friends, and the previous summer, after he was wounded in a skirmish with border reivers, the queen had ridden to be with him despite having only just given birth to a son. A trial was arranged, but with a lack of evidence, he was acquitted. Just a week later, he managed to convince more than two dozen lords and bishops to support him in his wish to marry the queen. On 27 April, Mary was abducted by Bothwell – either willingly or not – and was apparently raped before

“In France, Mary was no longer queen, nor was she considered queen of England”
being forced to agree to marriage. They were married on 15 May, just 12 days after Bothwell had divorced his wife. Few considered the marriage lawful, and both Catholics and Protestants were shocked that Mary had married the man accused of her husband’s murder. The confederate lords raised an army against them, and the troops met at Carberry Hill. But there was to be no battle, as Mary’s outnumbered army quickly deserted. Bothwell was given safe passage from the field, while Mary was imprisoned in Loch Levan Castle, accused of both adultery and the murder of Lord Darnley. On 24 July, she was forced to abdicate in favour of her one-year-old son, James.

The following year, Mary escaped, and fled across the border to England. She expected Elizabeth to help her win back her throne, but first, she had to prove her innocence. That was hard to do when the Earl of Moray, Mary’s illegitimate half-brother who was ruling Scotland as regent, presented eight love letters supposedly written by Mary to Bothwell between January and April 1567. The incriminating documents exposed her part in the murder of Darnley, but Elizabeth, not wishing to acquit nor convict Mary, ruled the trial inconclusive. The Catholic queen remained in custody in England, while a Protestant government continued to rule in Scotland.

For 18 years, Mary was a prisoner of the English crown, but hers was not a painful captivity. She was given staff, her rooms were luxuriously decorated, and she was even allowed to summer in the spa town of Buxton. Meanwhile in Scotland, the Catholic earls were rebelling, and several plots to overthrow Elizabeth were uncovered. Security became tighter, and Elizabeth requested that her spymaster Sir Francis Walshingham place one of his agents in the castle where Mary was being held. In 1586, a letter from Mary to Anthony Babington, a Catholic conspirator, was intercepted and deciphered. It revealed a plot to assassinate Elizabeth, which Mary had sanctioned, and she was arrested and placed on trial for treason. She denied all charges and argued that as she was not an English subject, she could never be convicted of treason, but without legal counsel she was helpless. Mary was sentenced to death, and on 8 February 1587, she was beheaded.

It’s still not known whether the love letters from Mary to Bothwell were authentic. Mary denied writing them, arguing that her handwriting was not hard to imitate, and many of her biographers have concluded that they were either completely or partly forged. As for the Babington Plot, the letter that Mary had written agreed with the plans, but many say that she never authorised the queen’s assassination; this was added after the letter had been deciphered. So was Mary guilty of adultery, murder and treason? Or was she the victim of a Protestant conspiracy to prevent the true heir from taking the throne? Sadly, we may never know.

Was Mary, Queen of Scots a hero or a villain? Let us know what you think.
HYGIENE PRODUCTS

They say cleanliness is close to godliness, and for ancient civilisations it was so important that they developed these solutions to life's problems

**SHOWER 1767**

Ancient tribes would wash away the sweat and gore of a hunt with the kind of power shower we can only dream of - a waterfall - and eventually, humans tried to mimic this at home. Egyptian servants poured jugs over their masters, but the Greeks went one better and pumped water into communal shower rooms via aqueducts. The Romans continued this public bathing tradition - ordering slaves to guard their togas from thieves - and centuries later, in 1767, the first mechanical shower meant we could finally wash in privacy.

**TOILET PAPER 50 BCE**

We've come a long way since the communal sponge-on-a-stick of Ancient Rome. In 50 BCE, the Chinese invented paper, and an emperor from the Song Dynasty is said to have been the first to use it, ordering 60 by 90-centimetre sheets to be made for his toilet time. Everyone else in the world used whatever they could get their hands on, and it might have resembled the magazine you're holding right now. Editions of *Farmers' Almanac* in 1818 were even made with a hole so people could hang it in their outhouses. In fact, toilets existed long before toilet paper, which didn't start circulating until 1857.

**SOAP 2800 BCE**

The first known attempt at a soap recipe comes from the Ancient Babylonians, who combined animal fats, oils and wood ash to form a detergent for their tools and possibly their clothes. The Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all developed their own cocktails of oils, salts and fats, but rather than being part of everyday skincare routines, these were mainly used medicinally. One of the foundations for modern cleanser was Aleppo Soap from the Syrian city, which was traded along the Silk Road. As it spread through Asia, the Middle East and Persia, the Europeans took notice and the Spanish Kingdom of Castile made their own version in the 12th century which followed.

**TOOTHPASTE 5000 BCE**

In 5000 BCE, Babylonians and Egyptians would scrub their smile with the ashes of ox hooves, egg shells and pumice, and the taste of this toothpaste wouldn't improve for some time. In Greece and Rome, they preferred a little more abrasion, adding crushed bones and oyster shells. In 500 BCE, the Chinese added flavouring, with Ginseng and herbal mints. These tooth powders eventually became a paste in the 1800s. However, tooth whitening and decay prevention are relatively recent advancements, only coming into play in 1914.

**COMBS 5000 BCE**

It’s believed we have our ape ancestors to thank for head lice, meaning humans have been battling these bloodsuckers for hundreds of thousands of years. One of the earliest uses of combs seems to have been for this very purpose, dating back to Neolithic times. Lice combs have even been found buried in Egyptian tombs. Spartans, meanwhile, combed their hair as part of a pre-battle ritual, showing that having killer looks has always been important. With ceremonial and practical purposes, the history of combs is a long and tangled one that dates back to among the earliest tools.

**Through History**
SANITARY TOWELS

10TH CENTURY BCE

One of the earliest mentions of menstrual management is from the 10th century BCE, when Hypatia - one of the first female Greek mathematicians - is said to have tossed her sanitary rag at a persistent admirer. By World War I, the demand for bandages on the frontline left cotton in short supply. A substitute from the US - Cellucotton - was introduced, and Red Cross nurses noted how absorbent this wood pulp wadding really was. It was cheap to mass-produce, and after the war, the same company started to market Kotex sanitary pads in 1920.

RAZORS

60,000 BCE

An abundance of body hair presented a multitude of problems for Neanderthals: it was riddled with lice, could freeze when it was wet and got rather messy after a meal. Clam shells and flint sufficed as the Gillette razors of the Stone Age, somewhat successfully removing unwanted hair for our earliest ancestors, but more practical solutions came when the Ancient Egyptians began crafting edged razors from copper and gold. By around 300 BCE, implements more closely resembling knuckle-dusters, called iron novacilas, were shaving the faces of all the trendiest young men in Rome. Some 2,000 years later, incredibly sharp folding blades ominously known as ‘cut-throat’ razors began to emerge as the shaving implement of choice, only to be eclipsed by King Camp Gillette’s less deadly safety razor in 1904.

TOOTHBRUSHES

3500-3000 BCE

While the first toothbrush is likely to have been the human finger, resourceful Babylonians and Egyptians would use a ‘chewing stick’ to scrape away that fuzzy feeling. The ancient Chinese took this invention one step further by sharpening one end to use as a pick, and by the 15th century, they began using bristles from pigs inserted into tiny holes in bone or bamboo. When this design spread to Europe, it was adapted to include horsehairs, as they were softer, and toothpicks were fashioned from feathers. William Addis gets the credit for the modern toothbrush design in 1780, and nylon bristles were introduced when DuPont invented the synthetic material. They eventually went electric in 1939, and have caused a buzz ever since.

In the 1920s, department stores stocked sanitary knickers for women to wear under their clothes.

“Having killer looks has always been important”

Jules Montenier

AMERICAN 1895-1962

The first deodorants were itchy and unpleasant until this Chicago-born chemist invented Stopette, which contained a chemical that combated the scratch as well as the stench. Montenier gained a patent in 1941 and released his formula with the slogan “Poof! There goes the perspiration.” It made Montenier a millionaire.

In 1905, travelling salesman King Camp Gillette introduced the disposable double-edged blade.

In the 19th century, sweat had to be masked with aromatic plants and oils, and the Ancient Egyptians were renowned for their perfumes. Their influence over Ancient Roman and Greek civilisations caused the scents to spread, but it wasn’t until the 19th century that deodorant arrived. It was a paste called Mum, soon followed by the first antiperspirant, Everdry, which happened to sting and destroy clothes. By the mid-1950s, roll-ons were released, inspired by the ballpoint pen, and a decade later, the debut aerosol from Right Guard was launched.

In 1895, travelling salesman King Camp Gillette introduced the disposable double-edged blade.

In 1888, travelling salesman King Camp Gillette introduced the disposable double-edged blade.
When civil war broke out in Spain in the summer of 1936, artists and writers enlisted their creativity in the service of a cause.
Trouble had been brewing in Spain throughout the first half of 1936. Elections held in February had brought to power a left-wing government committed to reforms, which threatened the interests of the privileged.

A group of reactionary army officers decided that the best way to avert that threat was to overthrow the government. One of the plotters, destined to become their leader, was General Francisco Franco. He and others prepared what they called a pronunciamiento, a pronouncement. In a short, sharp display of force, the military would simply ‘pronounce’ that the Republican government was deposed and the military had taken over.

That, at least, was the plan. However, when the government and large sections of the Spanish population resisted the coup when it was launched on 17 July, it became clear that the generals had failed. They could claim control over parts of Spain, but the Republican government had survived to rule over the rest.

So began a bloody civil war that would ultimately cost some half a million Spanish lives. In its origins it was Spanish, and it was fought entirely on Spanish soil, but it was also a war that caught the world’s attention. Across the globe it seemed that the great ideological battles of the day were being fought out on the battlefields of the Spanish Civil War.

Whether they were in Spain or elsewhere, writers and artists could not remain untouched by the dramatic events that unfolded on the Iberian peninsula. Some of them felt so passionately that they took up arms, joining such organisations as the International Brigades to defend the Republic. Others chose to use their artistic and literary talents as weapons in the service of a cause. They hoped that their words and images could make a real difference to the outcome of the war. For the great majority of them, that meant crushing the generals and defeating fascism. More than that, it was the fervent belief of many that art and literature could promote fundamental political and social change in Spain – perhaps even revolution.
When word broke of the coup attempt in Spain, newspapers around the world sent reporters to cover the war. Other writers made their way to Spain on their own initiative, drawn there by the notion that to write about the war might shape public opinion and influence the war’s outcome.

In Spain they worked in the most challenging of circumstances, as tight restrictions were placed on their activities. More perilous was the daily reality of being exposed to violence, which was by no means confined to battlefronts. This was a civil war, fought at the dawning of the age of aerial bombardment, and civilians too were commonly counted among its victims.

Those dangers were cruelly revealed in the case of the young German-born photojournalist Gerda Taro. She was probably the first woman journalist in history to cover frontline warfare and to be killed while doing so. She went to Spain with her partner, the photographer Robert Capa, to cover the war in the Republican zone. Her photographs documenting the horrors of war were widely published in the international press until she was fatally wounded in July 1937.

The English writer George Orwell came within a hair’s breath of losing his life in Spain. Orwell had decided to travel to Spain at the end of 1936 with the idea that he would write about it for the British press. There was never any question that his sympathies were with the forces of the left, and he was deeply impressed by the revolutionary atmosphere that prevailed in Barcelona when he arrived there. It was immediately apparent to him that even in the midst of the war, profound social changes were occurring, and that the working classes were in control. Having already chosen to take up arms, he joined a fighting militia of a revolutionary group called the POUM (Workers’ Party of Marxist Unification) and went to fight Franco’s fascists on the Aragon front. It was there that he was shot in the throat by a sniper. Had he not been so tall, the bullet might well have inflicted a fatal wound.

While on leave in Barcelona in May 1937, Orwell became aware of the poisonous political atmosphere that was developing there. There were two opposing views in Republican Spain about how to fight the war. Anarchists and other revolutionary elements, including...
he knew well and loved, his sympathies were very clearly with the Republic. Apart from his newspaper reports and his only play, The Fifth Column, Hemingway also co-wrote (with John Dos Passos) the 1937 film The Spanish Earth. Directed by Joris Ivens and narrated by Orson Welles, the film’s pro-Republican stance was unambiguous. The most famous literary manifestation of Hemingway’s experience of the war is, however, his novel For Whom The Bell Tolls, which tells the fictional story of an American volunteer for the International Brigades. Published in 1940, it was followed three years later by a film of the same title starring Ingrid Bergman and Gary Cooper.

For Spanish writers, the outbreak of war triggered an outburst of activity across all the literary forms. They wished to show their support for the war and the revolution by putting pen to paper, using literature to promote commitment to the cause.

One such writer was Miguel Hernández, whose commitment to the burning social issues of the day had led him to join the Communist Party of Spain. After the outbreak of war, he exemplified the unity of cultural and military activity in the Republic. He enlisted with Republican forces and also gave poetry readings at the front to boost the soldiers’ morale. He survived the war, but like so many who had supported the Republic, he fell victim to Franco’s extraordinary vindictiveness, and was sentenced to death before succumbing to tuberculosis in captivity in 1942.

Robert Capa and Gerda Taro, 1936. A year later, Taro would be killed while covering the Battle of Brunete.

The American writer Ernest Hemingway, too, made his way to Spain, which was a country the POUM wanted to fight a revolutionary war, encouraging mass involvement by promoting a social revolution even as war raged. Moderates wanted to delay the revolution until after the war was won. When the two sides clashed, Orwell sided with the revolutionaries. Communist-led moderate forces prevailed in this civil war within the civil war, with the result that Orwell fled Spain for fear of being arrested and jailed. Back in England, with the revolution by putting pen to paper, using literature to promote commitment to the cause. The driving forces behind the International Brigades were the communist parties, which existed in many countries and followed the lead set by the Soviet Union. In countries such as Britain, France, the United States and Australia, communists assembled recruitment networks, so that those willing to fight in Spain could be gathered together and then sent for training and deployment in Spain. As so many states had committed themselves to non-intervention, the sending of volunteers had to take place in a clandestine manner.

Altogether something in the order of 40,000 volunteers served in the International Brigades, most in combatant roles. Typically they would fight in a unit of their countrymen, named after a national hero. German volunteers, for example, served in the Thälmann Battalion, named after the imprisoned German communist leader Ernst Thälmann. Altogether nearly 6,000 members of the International Brigades gave their lives for the Republic.
Art & photography

Never before had there been such a strong sense that art could and should be used as a political weapon.

A striking feature of the art stimulated by the events of the Spanish Civil War is its variety. In all media, stretching from paintings through posters to photography, and in a multitude of styles, artists sought to take sides. This was especially true in the Republican zone, where the war was accompanied by a great flurry of artistic activity.

Spanish by birth, the artist Pablo Picasso was living in France at the time that the generals attempted their coup. His political sympathies were with the Republic. When the Spanish Pavilion was designed for the International Exhibition in Paris in 1937, Picasso was commissioned to prepare an artwork for it.

The result is probably the most famous artwork to emerge from the Spanish Civil War, namely his painting Guernica. The subject of the painting is the brutal bombing of the ancient Basque capital of Guernica on 26 April 1937. Responsible for the destruction of the town and the deaths of unknown numbers of innocent civilians were the bombers of Hitler’s Condor Legion.

Picasso chose not to use a realist style to represent the horror of what had happened in Guernica. Rather, in this massive painting, Picasso employed an abstract style, employing traditional Spanish motifs such as the bull and the horse, to convey to viewers his indignation at what many saw as an act of fascist barbarism.

Not surprisingly, the painting attracted a good deal of controversy, both in Paris at first and then when it was displayed at other venues around the world. That alone was a sign of the painting’s success in bringing global attention to the horrors of the war in Spain. An apocryphal anecdote has it that a German officer in wartime Paris, seeing a photo of Guernica on the wall, asked Picasso if he did that, to which the artist responded, “No, you did.”

Eventually, after the death of Franco and the restoration of democracy in Spain, the painting was placed on display in Madrid, much to the anger of those who resented its capacity to turn art into a political weapon. At first it was protected by bomb and bullet-proof glass as it drew millions of admirers from across the globe. Nowadays many viewers regard the painting as not just a condemnation of the bombing of Guernica but also a modern and progressive political cause should be supported by art.

“It was natural that a modern and progressive political cause should be supported by art.”

THE REBELLION BEGINS

17 JULY 1936
UPRISING IN MOROCCO
The coup, which has been planned by a group of generals, is launched in Spanish Morocco, and it will soon be followed by military risings in Spain itself.

19-20 JULY 1936
SPAIN DIVIDED
The coup is successful in parts of southern and northern Spain, but military and popular forces that are loyal to the government manage to defeat the coup in the cities of Madrid and Barcelona.

30 JULY 1936
HITLER TO THE RESCUE
With the increasing possibility that the coup will fail, transport aircraft provided by Hitler ferry Franco’s Army of Africa from Spanish Morocco to Spain.

14 AUGUST 1936
MASSACRE IN BADAJOZ
Insurgent forces capture the town of Badajoz in south-western Spain and stage a brutal massacre of inhabitants believed to be opponents of the uprising.

29 SEPTEMBER 1936
FRANCO EMERGES
One of the generals commanding the rebel forces, Francisco Franco, who led the Spanish Army of Africa, is declared commander in chief and head of government in the rebel-held territory.
in France Miró designed a stamp, the idea being that proceeds from its sale would support the Republic. It was never issued, but the message was clear – Miró’s art should be brought to the masses.

Photography, too, could deliver powerful messages capable of reaching millions. In the Spanish and international press, photographers working in Spain sought to convey to readers the bitter realities of modern warfare. The nature of the medium, with its implicit guarantee that what was shown was undistorted and unembellished reality, seemed to lend itself well to the task of influencing people’s thinking and driving them to action.

As with artists and writers, photographers descended on Spain from many parts of the world. Among those foreign photographers were two Germans, Hans Namuth and George Reisner. As was the case for the Germans who fought in the International Brigades, for Namuth and Reisner the Spanish Civil War was a chance to defeat Franco and to secure a great victory over fascism. Triumph in Spain would thus be a vital step toward crushing Hitler and restoring democracy in their homeland. The men had been sent to Spain in July 1936 to cover the Workers’ Olympics for the French magazine *Vu*. When the outbreak of war intervened, they stayed on in Spain, using their photographic skills to record the impact of the war in the Republican zone.
In the dark, looming shadows of World War II, Germany has been butchered and served to the Allies - a corner for the British, French, Americans and Russians, and each a portion of Berlin. Divided, East and West Germany face entirely different fates. The West has grown and prospered, while the East - under the USSR’s communist regime - spirals into concrete oblivion. East Berlin has fallen victim to communism too. However, with direct access to the capitalist West mere footsteps away, East Berlin has become an escape route for millions
As the amount of migrants continued to rise, so too did the tempers of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) leaders. Infuriated, they hatched a plot to build a wall. In total secrecy, 106 kilometres of barbed wire has been erected, blocking the path from East to West. As of 12 August 1961 - and until the wall’s fall on 9 November 1989 - free movement is illegal.

**WHERE TO STAY**

You will be relatively safe in most parts of East Berlin, but if you’re plotting your escape, then be sure to take up residence in a tall building near the wall. That way, you’ll be able to observe the guards and organise your plan. From here, you might even be able to take inspiration from Horst Klein, an acrobat in East Berlin who tightrope-walked his way to freedom in 1963. You might need to get yourself an ally on the other side of the wall, but plenty of West Berliners are happy to help their escaping Eastern counterparts.

**Dos & don’ts**

- **Keep up appearances.** Whether you’re plotting against the GDR or not, keep going to work daily and don’t grumble – the Stasi are everywhere.
- **Sign up for your Trabant immediately.** The popular GDR car has waiting lists of up to 15 years long, so don’t leave it too late.
- **Keep your eyes peeled for escape tunnels.** There are about 71 to be found along the wall, and 20 per cent of those will lead to freedom.
- **Apply for a pass if you need to visit family in West Berlin in an emergency.** No pass, no access to West Berlin.
- **Expect to be allowed into West Berlin, even if you do have a pass.** Entry is at the whim of the checkpoint guards.
- **Try to escape East Berlin by climbing the wall.** Sandwiched between the two barbed-wire fences is the death strip, a gauntlet with snipers, trip wires and traps to kill you.
- **Winge about your situation.** The Stasi are always listening, so be sure to watch what you say.
- **Leave without provisions.** Even if you are let into West Berlin as a pensioner, you probably won’t be able to afford anything when you’re there. You’re only allowed to exchange a very small amount of money.

The West Deutsche mark is worth five times as much as the Eastern Deutsche mark.

**FIG.02**

* checkpoints on the Berlin Wall in East and West Berlin
* The Berlin Wall, as it is known, stretches 14.5 kilometres from Checkpoint Charlie to Friedrichshain

* Did you know? The West Deutsche mark is worth five times as much as the Eastern Deutsche mark.
WHO TO BEFRIEND
Erich Mielke
The saying goes keep your friends close and your enemies closer. This is especially true in East Berlin. A true psychopath, Erich Mielke is the head of the Stasi and a powerful, treacherous man. A long-time associate of Ulbricht, Mielke's past is similarly murky. Like Ulbricht, Mielke has been implicated in murders and masterminded some of East Germany's cruellest agendas. As the minister of State Security, you'll want to stay on Mielke's good side - while he certainly won't do you any favours, maybe he might let slip a few names of undercover Stasi members to avoid.

Extra tip:
If you want to get by safely in East Berlin, you'd better find your communist roots. With the German Democratic Republic made up of Germany's staunchest communists - and backed by the Soviet Union - conforming to the government's expectations is your only hope of living your life without bother.

WHO TO AVOID
Walter Ulbricht
If there's one man you can blame for the building of the Berlin wall, it's Walter Ulbricht. A long-time communist, Ulbricht fled Germany during the reign of Adolf Hitler, seeking exile in both Paris and Prague. Yet when the Soviets took control of East Germany, Ulbricht founded the German Democratic Republic. Since then he's gone from strength to strength. As chairman of the State Council, Ulbricht holds most of the power and sway in East Berlin, making most of the decisions. His thuggish past and penchant for brutality make him a force to be reckoned with - at all costs, stay away.

Helpful Skills
If you want a chance of getting out of East Berlin, these tips should see you through

Strength
If you're into brawling, not brains, spend some time building your muscles. You might not be able to escape through legal means, but there are tunnels under the wall just waiting to be found.

Charisma
So you got caught trying to escape? No matter - if you've dedicated hours to honing your charisma skills, you'll need that cool head and sharp wit to get you back on the East Berlin streets in no time.

Medical knowledge
Be sure to get a decent education - preferably in something that will get you into West Berlin. An esteemed medical profession could see you called out of East Berlin for your specialised skills.
As dawn broke on 4 May 1471, Edward, duke of York, knew that his 'now or never' moment had arrived. As the sun touched the tower of Tewkesbury Abbey 2.5 kilometres to the north, he strained his eyes to make out the battle order of his Lancastrian enemies. Their defensive position was a strong one. The ground in between was a patchwork of fields and copses, intersected by hedges and narrow lanes. A frontal attack would be difficult. Worse still, to his left lay a thick belt of trees, which the opposing commander might use to outflank him. His first move was to post 200 mounted spearmen to guard against a surprise attack from that quarter. The duke and his officers now called upon God, the Virgin Mary and St George to grant them victory and deliver England from the rule of a mad king, Henry VI, his belligerent queen, Margaret, and their 17-year-old heir, Prince Edward. Then, he 'displayed his banners, did blow the trumpets and advanced directly upon his enemies.'

How did England find itself in this baronial civil war that raged back and forth for 30 years? In 1471, few people were alive who could remember the glory days of the hero-king Henry V, who had conquered France and united the two crowns to create the largest empire in Europe. But everyone knew how, in the following years, everything had gone wrong. Henry V had died...
EDWARD IV THE FIRST YORKIST KING

DEREK WILSON

Author Bio

Derek Wilson is a leading academic historian and novelist with >70+ books to his name. His latest offerings are: Mrs Luther - Women Of The Reformation and The Devil’s Choice, a Tudor crime thriller. Find out more at www.derekwilson.com.
young, leaving a baby, Henry VI, as his heir. The fundamental reasons for the troubles besetting 15th-century England were the uncertainty caused by the reign of a child king and the long-running costly war in France, where the English were trying to hang on to the gains made by Henry V. The council of regency appointed by the late king was desperate to avoid political instability and made every effort to train young Henry to assume full control as soon as possible. At the age of four, for example, he formally opened parliament. However, it was inevitable that rival nobles would contend for control over the royal child. Normally, the mother of a ruling minor exercised a certain amount of influence, but Catherine de Valois, Henry V’s widow, forfeited any position she might have had with a scandalous liaison with Owen Tudor, a servant in her household. At this time, she could never have guessed the part that her grandson, Henry Tudor, was destined to play in history. Meanwhile, English rule in France steadily collapsed. Leading English barons, with bands of war-hardened retainers under their command, began to turn their forces against each other. These rivalries and the competing factions within government added to the disruption to trade already caused by the war.

What England needed was strong royal government—a king pursuing clear policies and with the power to enforce them; a king with the military skill to secure peace at home and victory abroad; a king who sired sons to secure the dynasty. Henry VI was none of these things. In 1442, he reached his majority but his control of affairs of state was sporadic. He was, by nature, a peacemaker with no interest in military affairs. He was pious and had a passion for education. His most permanent contribution to English life was his foundations of Eton College and King’s College, Cambridge. Day-to-day government, still affected by baronial rivalries, drifted aimlessly. In 1445, he married Margaret of Anjou and hoped to forge peace with France. The strategy was a spectacular failure on all counts. The war and English defeats continued. Henry and Margaret had no children for eight and a half years.

As if all this was not bad enough, in 1453 Henry suffered a complete mental collapse. He wandered from room to room, staring vacantly, recognising no one, not even the infant son who had, at last, been born. The situation was dire. Obviously someone needed to run the country. The heir presumptive was Richard, duke of York, an excellent military leader connected with several noble families. He had led the opposition to the ineffective rule of Henry and his favourites, and, in March 1454, assumed the protectorate. But Queen Margaret feared and mistrusted York and was determined to protect the birthright of her infant son, Edward. This rivalry would lead to 16 years of
bloody conflict, as rival armies faced each other from Northumberland to Hertfordshire and the Welsh borders to the east Midlands.

Though the king recovered after a few months and York resigned the protectorate, Henry's health and capacity to rule remained poor. York became the focus of protest against the Lancastrians. The duke approached London in May 1455 with a small army, and when the king's forces failed to stop him at St Albans, the Wars of the Roses had begun.

The duke of York's eldest son Edward, earl of March, took little part in the early years of the conflict, and when his father's supporters were dispersed by the king's forces in 1459, he fled to Calais with his friend and adviser Richard Neville, earl of Warwick. At 17, Edward was already an imposing figure. At almost two metres in height, he was very tall for the time and had the good looks and panache to go with it. He and the wily Warwick made a formidable team. They returned the following summer and defeated the Lancastrian forces at the Battle of Northampton on 10 July 1460. When York returned from his refuge in Ireland a new agreement was reached: Henry VI - now little more than a shuffling shell of a man - would remain king and be succeeded by Richard. However, within months, the duke of York was killed at the Battle of Wakefield.

Lancastrian triumph was short-lived. At Mortimer's Cross on 3 February 1461, Edward...
Edward IV: The First Yorkist King

Avenged his father, and had himself crowned as Edward IV. The new king, in large measure, owed the gaining of the crown to Warwick, who came to regard himself as indispensable. But Edward was determined to be his own man. While Warwick was busy arranging a foreign match for the king, Edward, ruled by his passions, secretly married the beautiful Elizabeth Woodville, whose family had fought on the opposite side. Warwick had a history of personal animosity towards the Woodvilles, who he regarded as ill-bred upstarts. Seeing Elizabeth and her relatives ruling the roost in the royal court was more than he could stomach. He won over Edward’s brother, George, duke of Clarence, and plotted with Margaret to restore Henry VI with himself as the power behind the throne. In 1470, Warwick invaded with an Anglo-French army and Edward was forced to flee abroad. Now it was his turn to win foreign support. Clarence swapped sides and, with his support, Edward returned. He defeated and killed Warwick at the Battle of Barnet on 14 April. The stage was set for the final showdown at Tewkesbury.

Margaret and her son, Prince Edward, landed at Weymouth on the same day as the battle of Barnet and did not hear of Warwick’s death for a few days. Since they could not look for support from the earl’s army, they contemplated returning to France. It was largely at Edward’s insistence that his mother decided to make for Wales, where she hoped to link with supporters from the principality and from Cheshire and Lancashire. King Edward, too, was obliged to make a sudden change of plans. He had stood down most of his men after Barnet and now had to gather his forces again in order to pursue the Lancastrians.

Margaret’s force was joined by troops raised by the duke of Somerset and the earl of Devon. Various estimates are given of the size of her army, but it is thought she had between 4,000 and 6,000 armed men at her disposal. The Lancastrians made what speed they could but the pace of their advance was determined by the massive iron cannon that had to be dragged by teams of oxen. Eventually they abandoned some of their artillery, which was then captured by the Yorkists. Their immediate objective was the River Severn, which they had to cross in order to rendezvous with their allies. Informed by scouts of the king’s position, Margaret despatched armed detachments in other directions to deceive Edward of her true intentions. A skirmish at Sudbury Hill (19 kilometres north east of Bristol) lost the king several men and valuable time. But he now realised his enemy was making for Gloucester, the nearest crossing point of the river. He sent messengers to the military governor of the city instructing him to close his gates to the Lancastrians. Margaret was forced to make another change of plans. Should she stand and fight or make her already weary soldiers march another 25 kilometres to the next crossing at Upton-upon-Severn? She decided on the latter. She reached Tewkesbury at about 4pm on 3 May and pitched camp. There was a ford nearby at Lode but it was small and to attempt a crossing would have been to run the risk of the Lancastrian host being divided into two contingents, one each side of the river. The weather was hot. The army was short of water and food. Margaret’s only possible tactics now were to find a good defensive position and wait for the enemy to arrive.

Edward’s army was experiencing similar discomfort. They were having to march farther and faster to close the gap. The king drove them hard, ordering a succession of forced marches with only short rests between. He did have the advantage that most of his men were mounted. In the morning he arrived to find that the Lancastrians had already taken up their positions. The duke of Somerset was in command and had drawn up his army in three ‘battles’ on sloping ground between two streams. He himself led the right wing. Prince Edward was placed in the centre with the experienced Lord Wenlock and Sir John Longstruther to advise him. The left battle...
Battle of Tewkesbury

The Lancastrians (blue) take their stand to the south of Tewkesbury with their troops arranged in three 'battles'. The Yorkists (red) face them in an identical battle order. An initial artillery and archery bombardment fails to break the Lancastrian ranks.

The duke of Somerset makes an attack on the Yorkist left flank. Troops placed in woodland to counter such a move attack the Lancastrians. Richard of Gloucester on the Yorkist left wheels round to engage Somerset.

On the Yorkist left, Somerset's attack is repulsed and his men put to flight. The Yorkist centre and right charge forward, forcing the Lancastrians to flee towards the town, slaughtering many as they pursued.
Elizabeth after Edward

After her treatment by Richard III, Edward IV's widow lost little time in intriguing against him.

When Richard of Gloucester decided to assume power, his first act was to gain control of Elizabeth's two young sons, Edward V and Richard, duke of York. They were in the custody of Elizabeth's brother, Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers, and her 25-year-old son Richard Grey. Gloucester sent the boys to the Tower, from which they never emerged, and he ordered the execution of Rivers and Grey. He then stripped the ex-queen of most of her lands. She and her daughters remained in sanctuary for nine months until Richard publicly promised not to persecute them. Elizabeth proved herself a dangerous enemy to the new king. She entered into secret negotiations with Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of the Lancastrian claimant, Henry Tudor. Their plan was to link the rival houses by a marriage between Henry and Elizabeth's eldest daughter, Elizabeth of York. After Henry's victory at the battle of Bosworth in 1485, Elizabeth enjoyed the restitution of all her honours, though her lands were transferred by the parsimonious Henry VII to her daughter. She chose to spend most of her remaining days in quiet seclusion at Bembridge Abbey. Elizabeth thus lived to see her daughter become queen. She was buried beside her husband at Windsor. Few women of the age had a more bitter experience of the highs and lows of fortune than the dowager queen.
Edward's Achievements

**Economic stability**
Edward was a strong king who gave England a dozen years of peace and stability. Trade and industry, especially woolen cloth production, recovered thanks, in part, to the king's encouragement.

**Military activity**
Edward enjoyed the reputation of never having lost a battle. He invaded France but there was no fighting. Louis XI paid him handsomely to go home under the Treaty of Picquigny in 1473.

**Glittering court**
Edward's court was called "the most splendid in all Christendom". He spent lavishly on clothes and jewels, amassed a library of books and built St George's Chapel at Windsor, a masterpiece of Perpendicular Gothic.

was led by the earl of Devon. Edward and his mother rode amid the ranks of their troops with words of encouragement. Then Margaret withdrew to a nearby convent to await news of the battle.

The king had little option but to draw up his troops in similar formation facing the enemy across the 400 metres of difficult terrain. Edward took the centre battle, carefully keeping beside him the duke of Clarence, whose loyalty had proved changeable of late. To his right was Lord Hastings' division. To his left was the king's younger brother, Richard of Gloucester, who at 19 was already an accomplished military commander. The fighting began with an exchange of artillery fire and fusillades of arrows, intended to unnerv the opposition. This brief bombardment had little effect.

The Yorkists advanced but Somerset used these opening manoeuvres in an attempt to outflank the enemy. He had spotted the weak point to the king's left and he tried to surprise Gloucester's contingent. What was supposed to happen was that as Somerset sowed confusion on the Yorkists' left, Wenlock would charge the centre. The plan failed for two reasons. Edward had foreseen the possible danger to his exposed left wing and posted his 200 spearmen to check the Lancastrian attack. Gloucester wheeled his division around to face the challenge. Then the second disaster struck. While the Yorkists were engaged on their left, Wenlock was supposed to make his frontal attack. Unaccountably, he failed to do so. This gave the enemy time to recover from their initial confusion and move leftwards to fill the gap in their ranks. The king sent his cavalry to attack Somerset, whose men fled in disorder. The field where many were cut down is still called 'Bloody Meadow'.

According to an account published 77 years later, Somerset immediately confronted Wenlock in a great fury and dashed his brains out with a battle-axe. The remaining Lancastrian lines now broke.

**"The king's enemies fled in all directions. Many were cut down"**

The king's enemies fled in all directions. Many were cut down by their pursuers. Others drowned while trying to wade the Avon in Tewkesbury. The Lancastrian leaders who had survived were killed while fleeing or executed after summary trial. Prince Edward was discovered by Clarence who, perhaps to emphasise his new-found loyalty to his brother, killed him on the spot.

The death of the Lancastrian heir was the most important outcome of the day. Up to this point, Henry VI had been kept in the Tower of London as a hostage. Now he was of no use to Edward IV. He was killed on 21 May, the day of Edward's triumphant return to London. The direct Lancastrian line from Henry V was no more. There was a 14-year-old boy, Henry Tudor, descended from Henry V's widow, but his claim was tenuous and he had fled to Brittany after the battle. Edward thought he could deal with this 'loose end' by negotiating with the dukes of Brittany. That was to prove a costly misjudgment.

England's new king was exactly what the country needed. The contrast between him and his predecessor couldn't have been more marked. A French commentator wrote of Edward IV, "I do not remember ever having seen a man more handsome than he was." Another commended the king for his "dedication to the common weal and government" of the realm. He was affable and approachable. But his immense self-will showed itself also in over-indulgence and ruthlessness. In middle years he grew fat and his unhealthy lifestyle probably contributed to his death at 40. The wealth and titles the king lavished on his wife's family, the 'upstart' Woodvilles, provoked jealousy among the nobility and his own kin. In 1478, he had his brother George, duke of Clarence, murdered in the Tower. His other brother, Richard of Gloucester, disapproved of Edward's lifestyle and his in-laws. After the king's death, he wasted no time in purging the court of his brother's closest relatives and friends.
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The Indian Mutiny of 1857 had a profound effect on life on the subcontinent. No longer did the corrupt and inept East India Company rule the colony, instead an administration directed straight from the British Crown was introduced. This was the British Raj. This new way of running the territory ended the long-standing Mughal Dynasty, which had ruled the country for 300 years, and pushed through British ideas of social and cultural progression in India as the British overlords tightened their grip.

Despite the change of rule, the new Raj continued to be a hotbed of unrest as the British capitalised on antagonism between Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus, enacting a divide-and-rule policy. Britain always saw India as an essential cog in the empire and, as time progressed, it used the nation for whatever it could. India contributed massively to both world wars, deploying resources as well as manpower in the name of the empire. In response, a determined independence movement originated. Under the leadership of iconic figures like Mahatma Gandhi, the drive for Indian sovereignty gathered pace. It was finally sanctioned on 15 August 1947, as Britain’s empire fragmented further after the end of the war.
NEW RECRUITS FOR THE EMPIRE

Access to Indian soldiers was one of the subcontinent’s greatest assets for the British. The British Indian Army was founded in 1895 and about 40 per cent of the Raj’s wealth was spent on the army and used in both world wars.

BIRTH OF A CRICKETING NATION

One of Britain’s most popular imports into India was cricket. The sport’s icon in the 19th century was Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji, regarded as one of the greatest players of all time. He fought in World War I.

WONDER OF THE WORLD

The Taj Mahal is one of India’s most instantly recognisable structures. Completed centuries before the British Raj in 1653, Lord Curzon ordered a restoration project for the building after it was damaged during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
IN PICTURES

YOUNG GANDHI
Mahatma Gandhi pictured in 1906 during his days as a lawyer in South Africa. He would go on to become a pioneer of non-violent resistance and a charismatic leader of India’s independence movement.

A LIFT IN A PALANQUIN
India was the jewel in the empire’s crown, and as this image from 1922 shows, wealthy merchants ruled the roost. The British mindset was to provide India with economic and educational development in return for control.

DIVIDED SOCIETY
20,000 British ruled over 300 million Indians. Society was so divided that independence movements didn’t arise until later and normal life stayed very similar, with the practice of snake charming remaining popular for instance.
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

In 1912, a plan was concocted by revolutionaries to kill the viceroy of India, Lord Charles Hardinge. A bomb was detonated during the Viceroy’s state entry to Delhi but he survived and went on to improve relations between the government and Indian nationalists.
MERMAID SPOTTED IN NEW YORK HARBOR

Creatures' existence confirmed

This abomination arrived in New York City in July 1842 after being supposedly found off the coast of Fiji. It was brought to American shores by Dr J Griffin, a member of the 'British Lyceum of Natural History', who was convinced that mermaids existed. The so-called 'Feejee Mermaid' caught the attention of showman PT Barnum, who requested to put it on display at his museum. A classic depiction of a mermaid was used to advertise the exhibition, and newspapers, each believing they had an exclusive, published the details of this incredible story.

Once the crowds arrived at the hastily arranged exhibition, they were disappointed to find that the mermaid was in fact half-monkey, half-fish. It was later revealed that the whole affair had been a stunt by Barnum to gain much-needed publicity, and Griffin had been hired as a phony naturalist. The Feejee mermaid was in fact sewn together by Japanese fishermen, who often created these 'hybrid' creatures for use in religious ceremonies and worship.
From beavers on the Moon to ancient giants, leave reality behind in a rundown of the 18 greatest ever shams and swindles

Written by Jack Griffiths

PASTA FOR ALL!
Huge spaghetti tree harvest recorded in Switzerland

Money doesn’t grow on trees - but spaghetti does, if you believe the BBC. The incredible news was reported in a TV broadcast on April Fools’ Day 1957, with the deadly serious Richard Dimbleby on presenting duties. The Panorama presenter explained how a mild winter had allowed for a plentiful spaghetti crop on the slopes of Lake Lugano. To many naive British viewers, the story seemed entirely plausible, as shots showed strands of the pasta being pulled off the trees. No one even questioned Dimbleby when he claimed that each strand could now be grown to the same length after years of selective breeding.

An estimated 8 million people tuned in and even BBC director Ian Jacobs confessed to double-checking what spaghetti was. The joke had worked a charm, and the BBC later tried to repeat its triumph first with claims that Big Ben was going digital in 1980, and then a YouTube video on flying penguins in 2008. Both valiant efforts, but not as iconic as the 1957 original.

EXCLUSIVE HITLER’S DIARY FOUND IN DRESDEN
Read the twisted thoughts of the Führer

In April 1983, German magazine Stern thought they secured the deal of the century when they paid $6 million to print Adolf Hitler’s diaries. The editors at Stern were so ecstatic with the exclusive that they didn’t invite any experts to analyse the diaries before putting their money on the table - a critical error. Sadly, for the weekly news magazine, the books weren’t from the pen of the Führer at all and were actually the sneaky work of Stuttgart forger Konrad Kajau and journalist Gerd Heidemann, who claimed to have discovered the diaries in a crash site in Dresden. The German authorities didn’t see the funny side and both Kajau and Heidemann were jailed.
CHEEKY MONK-IES

The legendary King Arthur’s grave found in Glastonbury Abbey

This hoax dates back to the 12th century when Glastonbury monks, struggling for funds after a fire and envious of Westminster Abbey’s architecture, created an elaborate story to boost their own abbey’s stature. In the 1950s, the monks began spreading the word that the skeletons of the legendary king of the Britons and his wife Guinevere were buried under the abbey church. The hoax turned out to be a masterstroke, as people were confident of its authenticity due to Glastonbury’s reputation as an ancient holy site. The legend lived on for centuries even after the abbey’s destruction in the Reformation.

In 1981, the hoax made a brief comeback when a lead cross, reported to be the same one initially found at Glastonbury identifying King Arthur’s grave, was claimed after a dredging operation. However, it was revealed that its discoverer, Derek Mahoney, had simply recreated the cross in the hope of raising some funds to help pay off debts.

Dead soldier gives away Allied invasion plans

Hoaxes aren’t all fun and games, some can turn entire military campaigns on their heads. In July 1943, the Allies were preparing to launch an invasion of Sicily, punching upwards through the soft Italian underbelly of the Axis. To throw the Wehrmacht off the Allied scent, an ingenious idea was devised by Flight Lieutenant Charles Cholmondeley and Lieutenant Commander Ewen Montagu.

Known as Operation Mincemeat, the body of a victim of pneumonia was put in the water and sent off towards Axis positions along with a briefcase of plans that stated the Allies would be undertaking an invasion on Greece and Sardinia, not Sicily. The secrets of course were a bluff but the bait was taken by Italian soldiers. Sicily was left ripe for the taking as the liberation of Europe continued.

NEW CULT TAKES KNOWN WORLD BY STORM

Alexander the Paphlagonian was one of the ancient world’s top phoney’s. Seeking fame and fortune, in about 100 CE he decided to create a mysterious new religion known as Glycon, which involved, among other things, a god in the form of a snake and a marriage between himself and the Moon. The bizarre cult was embraced by people who became convinced that Alexander could cure the sick and raise the dead. Alexander had clearly taken his new cult seriously and, as the self-appointed prophet, buried bronze tablets filled with cryptic writing, discovering them ‘by accident’ later, initially followers flocked to the new religion in their droves but soon saw through the façade. Nevertheless, Alexander’s fame spread far and wide and even Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius chose to meet with him prior to a military campaign.

BODY OF THREE-METRE-TALL GIANT UNEARTHED IN NEW YORK STATE

A group of workmen were just going about their business on 16 October 1869 when they uncovered what looked like the body of a giant human. Known as the petrified man, it sent shockwaves across the USA as people began to believe the biblical idea that giants once roamed the Earth. However, it soon became clear that this was in fact a ploy by New York tobacconist and atheist George Hull, who wanted to get the upper hand in a bust up with a Christian fundamentalist.

To get one over on his rival, Hull commissioned a stonemason to carve and then bury the huge figure. The scam was debunked by PT Barnum (of Barnum’s American Museum) who created an exact replica, proving it was a sham.
Woman gives birth to rabbits

Taking the award for the downright weirdest entry in the list is this tale from 18th-century Godalming, England. After claiming she had been sexually assaulted by a giant rabbit, servant Mary Toft then 'gave birth' to five dead bunnies. Local surgeon John Howard delivered the rabbits and was astonished by the unfolding events. He quickly notified other surgeons of his ordeal and even King George I himself sent two men to check it out for themselves. The news spread like wildfire through Early Modern Europe and many investigators rushed to see what all the fuss was about.

The event earned Toft celebrity status, but in the prime of her 15 minutes of fame, a German surgeon pulled the plug on the hoax that many were starting to believe. He inspected one of the dead rabbits and found hay and straw in its dung, meaning it could not have grown inside Toft; the terrible truth was revealed: Toft had been inserting the animals into her private parts and had then 'given birth to them'. To Toft's credit, she had fooled an entire nation and had briefly become the talk of the capital when she was taken to London for tests by the country's best physicians.

Evidence confirms Loch Ness monster is real

One of the most legendary fables of folklore, the Loch Ness monster was an ideal foundation for elaborate hoaxes. One of the most famous is the so-called surgeon's photo from 1934. Big game hunter Marmaduke Weatherall had been assigned by the Daily Mail to investigate Loch Ness and reported what he believed to be the monster's footprints. After this was proven to be false, Weatherall was laughed out of town, but this was just the start.

The vengeful hunter enlisted the help of renowned practical joker 'The Surgeon' (real name Robert Wilson) and published what looked like a very authentic photo. Sceptics were always convinced it was a hoax; and in 1984, an article published in the British Journal of Photography reasoned that what was in the image could be no more than a metre or two long, so was more likely a small mammal or marine bird. Amazingly, it was still believed to be genuine until 1994 when Weatherall's stepson Christian Spurling confessed it was indeed a hoax. The story had finally been put to bed but Weatherall may well have been the publicity agent for Loch Ness, as his stunt greatly increased the legend's popularity.

The figure in the image was actually a head and neck shape attached to a tiny submarine.
FIRST PHOTOS OF FAIRIES REVEALED

The early 20th century was a real hoax hotbed, mainly due to the continued growth of photography. One example of grainy black and white photos doing the trick was the story of the Cottingley Fairies in 1917. Just outside of Bradford, cousins Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths were playing around with a camera. Once the photos were developed, something peculiar happened and what looked like fairies appeared in the prints.

Soon enough, word got around and none other than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote an article in Strand Magazine claiming their validity. After photographic experts of the day had also been convinced they were real, the story went global. The strange images showed the girls with what looked like gnomes and fairies in front of them. After the early fanfare, sceptics soon started questioning the photos. The true answer only emerged in 1983 when an article was printed with the two cousins confessing to the fakes. It turned out that the fairies were actually cut outs from children’s book and spiritualists everywhere were left disappointed. The ploy had been a farce but it still provided some much-needed light-hearted news during the latter days of World War I.

ALIEN AUTOPSY FOOTAGE LEAKED

In 1995, video footage of what looked like an alien being operated on was released. The work of film producer Ray Santilli, some started to believe it was proof that we are not alone in the universe. However, it wasn’t long until forensic experts got hold of the recording and were able to debunk the hoax. According to them, the so-called surgeons were holding their instruments incorrectly and it was all too convenient that the camera got out of focus when it passed the body. As Santilli got more and more hesitant to show his video to other experts, the story began to unravel. It was only in 2006 when he admitted that it was a fake but still maintained that there was real footage.

Hero POW returns home after 4,800km walk

In 1932, the shadow of WWI still loomed over Germany. France had assured their former enemies that all German prisoners of war had been discharged, so when Oscar Daubmann came forward with his astonishing tale, the press leapt on it. Daubmann explained that he was a war veteran who had spent 16 years in a French POW camp. He had managed to escape and walked 4,800 kilometres before getting a boat to Italy and making it back to Germany.

However, the French government couldn’t find any record of his existence. It eventually came to light that he was a career criminal named Karl Hummel who had formulated the fib to get back to his homeland.
MACHINE TURNS WATER INTO GOLD

Today this invention would sound far too good to be true, but in 1897, investors were willing to throw money at it. It was said by its creator Prescott Ford Jerneegan and his partner Charles Fisher that the machine could turn plentiful saltwater into rare gold. People with more money than sense went mad for it, and the basic swindle became incredibly effective. Every night, Fisher would put small amounts of gold into boxes off the coast and the next day, it looked like the machine had turned seawater into the precious metal. Knowing their scam wouldn't last long, the two men fled shortly after, each with $200,000 in their pockets.

MISSING LINK BETWEEN HUMANS AND APES IS FOUND AT LAST

Now to one of the perhaps more plausible hoaxes on the list, at face value at least. The small hamlet of Piltdown was all over the front pages when in 1912 a human skull was found in a gravel pit. After being taken away for research, scientists declared the ‘Piltdown Man’ as the missing evolutionary link between humans and apes. It was only 40 years later that the find was questioned again, and on closer inspection, fluorine testing established that it was actually an orangutan jaw rooted with chimpanzee teeth. A clever ploy, and to this day, the place of the bones remains unknown.

Mysterious crop circles are work of UFOs

The appearance of crop circles had been a mystery in Britain until 1991 when two British farmers claimed that they had been the brains behind them since 1976. Using a simple combination of rope and wooden planks to prove their point, Doug Bower and Dave Charley turned what had started out as a jokey pub talk into a full-blown scheme. Aliens, ghosts and even God had previously been blamed for the phenomena, but now it seemed that these two men were the real reason for the elaborate patterns left in fields. It was later revealed to be a hoax, and the whole episode helped ridicule the idea of UFO-made crop circles.

Pope takes over Roman Empire

A document found in the 8th century turned the history of the Western Roman Empire on its head. According to the 'Donation of Constantine', the empire had converted to Christianity during the reign of Emperor Constantine between the years 285 and 337, and huge swathes of the empire were given to the Catholic Church. The donation was written in an attempt to restrict the growing power of the Byzantine Empire and is believed to have been the work of a cleric under the supervision of Pope Stephen II. It was only in 1440 that it was found to be forgery by Italian Humanist Lorenzo Valla and the church was forced to own up.
BEAVER COLONY FOUND ON THE MOON

Also known as the Great Moon Hoax, six articles were published in the New York newspaper The Sun in 1835, in a blatant lie, claiming a new settlement had been discovered on the Moon. Bizarrely, this new population wasn’t made up of your typical alien invaders but instead included unicorns, beavers and even winged humans. The Sun’s rival the New York Herald saw an opportunity to undermine its competitor and ran the headline ‘The Astronomical Hoax Explained’. Remarkably, no one took notice of the rather more sensible headline and a legend was born.

The story’s supposed credibility came from astronomer Sir William Herschel, whose telescope could magnify to such an extent that he could see the Moon’s surface. The British astronomer (who had passed away 13 years before) was prone to the odd astronomical gaffe or two and the source for the article was given as The Edinburgh Journal Of Science. Needless to say, The Sun benefited from the outrageous hoax with pamphlets and prints selling well. The story endured for a good five years until the journalist responsible for the headline, Richard Adams Locke, owned up, declaring that it was always his intention to satirise.

BEATLES, STONES AND DYLAN

It was music to the ears of every pop fan in 1969 when Rolling Stone magazine announced that four giants of music were set to collaborate on an all-new album. The Masked Marauders was to be the greatest supergroup ever created with Beatles Paul McCartney and John Lennon joining forces with Mick Jagger and Bob Dylan to create a scintillating album.

While an album was made by a band with this name, the four behemoths of music had not in fact collaborated on it. Instead, the songs were written by an obscure Californian band. However, the brains behind the project, reviews editor Greil Marcus, covered his back stating that the stars could not be named on the album cover for legal reasons rather than their lack of involvement.

The nine-track album shifted 100,000 copies, just missing out on the Billboard Hot 100. It was meant in good spirit though, and each buyer was notified of the real deal by the record’s inner sleeve. Marcus stated that he started the publicity stunt because he was fed up of the overwhelmingly positive reviews that supergroups were getting so he decided to parody the idea - and very much succeeded.
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On the shoreline
Iwo Jima was part of an island-hopping campaign that drove US forces into the heartland of the Japanese Empire. 30,000 Marines in eight battalions landed across 1.6km of beach. The 4th Division arrived in the centre of the island flanked on the left by the 5th Division.

Moving inland
The volcanic black ash wreaked havoc with the advance. Amphibious vehicles became bogged down and the Japanese machine guns could easily find a Marine in their crosshairs in the exposed land. The beaches were not ideal for digging foxholes either so cover was hard to find, and the death toll racked up.

Encircling US Navy
To give the Marines the best chance of success, the six battleships from the US 5th Fleet surrounding Iwo Jima launched a three-day long continuous bombardment on the island. Unfortunately, the barrage was quite ineffective against the subterranean-based Japanese and churned up the beach, making it harder to advance.
While Hitler was preparing his futile final offensives of the war in Europe, the US Army had assaults of its own to undertake in East Asia. Located 1,220 kilometres south of Tokyo was the remote volcanic island of Iwo Jima, just 21 square kilometres in size. On it were two airfields essential to American plans for the War in the Pacific. B-29 Superfortresses had been incredibly effective in their bombing of areas under Japanese occupation, and the capture of Iwo Jima would allow fighter escorts to accompany the bombing runs, making them an even more formidable threat. The Japanese Imperial Army knew of the importance of the island and had fortified Iwo Jima with a network of subterranean tunnels and 642 pillboxes. This didn’t deter the US forces, and battle commenced on 19 February after 72 days of intense bombing on the island.

At 8.59am, the 4th and 5th US Marine Divisions stormed the black-sand beaches to find the artillery barrage had not done its job. Attacks came thick and fast from machine-gun and mortar nests embedded into the island’s thick rock. The beaches soon became a mess of twisted metal and burning vehicles, and the Marines launched themselves into shallow foxholes to avoid the crossfire. 2,500 died in what would become the bloodiest day in the history of the US Marine corps, and battle commenced on 19 February after 72 days of intense bombing on the island.

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The southern tip of the island was dominated by Mount Suribachi and the invaders managed to claim it on 23 February. The American flag was raised on the summit in what would become an iconic image of the war. As the day progressed, the 4th and 5th Divisions were boosted by the entry of the 3rd Division into the fray. Now, the total number of US Marines who had been engaged in battle numbered 70,000 as the defenders became hideously outnumbered. After weeks of ferocious fighting, by the night of 25 March, only 300 Japanese soldiers remained. With no other alternative, led by Kuribayashi, they resorted to a banzai charge. The valiant yet suicidal attack was completely wiped out and the fight for Iwo Jima was over.

The bloody Operation Detachment came to an official end the next day but fighters had already been making sorties from 11 March. One in three US Marines were killed or wounded but the death toll paled in comparison to the Japanese, who lost over 20,000 men. 27 Medal of Honors were awarded, and the Battle of Okinawa loomed into view, getting under way just four days later. The ferocity of the defence of Iwo Jima surprised the American generals and would later help influence the decision to use atomic weaponry on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
**GENERAL HOLLAND ‘HOWLING MAD’ SMITH**

**LEADER**
Considered the father of US amphibious warfare, he was a veteran of World War I.

**Strengths** Experience and pushed for the use of advanced weaponry.

**Weakness** Along with many others, he believed the invasion would take just four days.

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**3rd, 4th & 5th Marines**

**TROOPS 110,000**

**SHIPS 880**

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**THE JAPANESE DEFENCES**

Iwo Jima is hilly and rocky but with enough open land to make any advance from the beaches tricky. A labyrinth of tunnels has been dug underground and it is from here that Kuribayashi calls the shots. The lieutenant general has plentiful ammunition and fuel stores but critically lacks fresh water supplies. The steep beaches and soft sand will be a lethal combination to the incoming invaders.

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**ZIPPO M4A3 SHERMAN UNIT**

These modified Sherman M4A3 tanks were armed with flamethrowers with a range of 150m and a firing duration of 60 seconds.

**Strengths** Effective at flushing out Japanese tunnels.

**Weakness** Only eight Shermans were equipped with the Mark I flamethrower.

---

**FLAMETHROWER KEY WEAPON**

A portable backpack that contained a lethal concoction of gasoline and napalm ready to be set on fire.

**Strengths** The raging inferno could wipe out scores of infantry.

**Weakness** Danger of flammable explosive fuel on the soldiers’ backs.

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**THE AMERICAN ADVANCE**

The beaches become a heap of twisted metal and confused infantry. As the chaos ensues, Kuribayashi launches signal flares and the Imperial Army throws everything it has at the Marines.

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**Initial bombardment**
Starting at 2am on 19 February, 6,800 tons of bombs and 22,000 naval shells smash into Iwo Jima from both bombers and battleships. However, there is much to be desired with the accuracy of the onslaught and it fails to weaken the Japanese resolve. The Marines are in for a surprise.

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**Marines land**
The attack is designed to be an improvement on the battle of Tarawa and despite the bloodshed, it is a success. The 4th and 5th Divisions land on the south-east side of the island, to the east of Mount Suribachi and will lead the assault side by side. 68 tracked landing vehicles spearhead the attack with their 75mm howitzers firing at the enemy as soldiers flood the beaches.

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**The American advance**
The beaches become a heap of twisted metal and confused infantry. As the chaos ensues, Kuribayashi launches signal flares and the Imperial Army throws everything it has at the Marines.

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**USS Bismarck sinks**
Naval gunfire has been supporting the Marines before and during the battle but the Japanese have become wise to this threat. They unleash a devastating attack on the fleet, sinking the escort carrier USS Bismarck.
**Lieutenant-General Tadamichi Kuribayashi**

A former cavalry officer, Kuribayashi was an intelligent and patient leader who forbade his men to resort to banzai charges. **Strengths** Got rid of the tactics that resulted in past defeats. **Weakness** Departure from tradition upset his subsidiary officers.

**Type 95 Light Tank Ha-Go**

A small light tank used alongside the slightly larger Type 97 Chi-ha tank. **Strengths** Deployed hidden in gullies for the best chance of attack. **Weakness** Easily outgunned by the Shermans.

**320mm ‘Spigot’ Mortars**

Huge mortars that were new to the battlefield struck fear into the heart of the Marines. **Strengths** The huge projectiles could cause devastation in a foxhole. **Weakness** Inaccurate and had more of a psychological effect.

**Battle of Iwo Jima**

**06 Mount Suribachi**

After painstakingly making it off the beaches, the tide begins to turn in favour of the US Marines and they head south west to Mount Suribachi. Within the 170-metre peak is a seven-storey-high Japanese defensive fortification, packed full of rations and weapons. With offshore support, the mountain falls on the fourth day and the Star Spangled Banner flies proudly over Iwo Jima’s highest point.

**07 3rd Division arrives**

Having initially been kept in reserve, the 3rd Division joins the battle to secure the northern part of the island. The extra manpower is invaluable as the current Marines are being outwitted by the tunnel system that is enabling the Japanese to re-occupy cleared bunkers. The island itself is only a third of the size of Manhattan but General Smith is still forced to come ashore to conduct the troops personally.

**08 Air support**

Throughout the battle the carrier-based Vought F4U Corsairs have been strafing the Japanese positions with fire. They are flying so low that they would be described as “dragging their bellies on the beach.” Along with the Corsairs are B-24 Liberators and P-51 Mustangs that pummel the island with bombs.

**09 Almost there**

Assaults begin to be undertaken without the aid of air support, as the sorties are becoming less and less effective. The island is declared secure after over a month of battle as the 147th Infantry arrives and begins turning the island into a fortified garrison. However, it won’t be until 21 March that the fighting ends when a final last gasp assault personally led by Kuribayashi is crushed.

**10 The 34-day battle**

For the first time, Hokkaido is within bomber range and the pendulum swings in the USA’s favour. Back on Iwo Jima, it is predicted that 1,000 Japanese still lay in the caverns below, and 867 more prisoners would be captured by June. Incredibly, the final two soldiers manage to last out until 1951.

**109th Infantry Division**

**TROOPS** 23,000

**SHIPS** 0

**Lieutenant-General Tadamichi Kuribayashi**

Leader

A former cavalry officer. Kuribayashi was an intelligent and patient leader who forbade his men to resort to banzai charges.

**Strengths** Got rid of the tactics that resulted in past defeats.

**Weakness** Departure from tradition upset his subsidiary officers.

**Type 95 Light Tank Ha-Go**

**Key Unit**

A small light tank used alongside the slightly larger Type 97 Chi-ha tank.

**Strengths** Deployed hidden in gullies for the best chance of attack.

**Weakness** Easily outgunned by the Shermans.

**320mm ‘Spigot’ Mortars**

**Key Weapon**

Huge mortars that were new to the battlefield struck fear into the heart of the Marines.

**Strengths** The huge projectiles could cause devastation in a foxhole.

**Weakness** Inaccurate and had more of a psychological effect.
The history of humanity’s relationship with our four-legged furry friends goes back millennia; cats and dogs have been a part of our past since records really began. Dogs in particular have won out as man’s best friend, and our unique relationships with canines extends far beyond just companionship, with humans often putting their lives into the paws of our loyal sidekicks. In Michael Layton and Bill Rogerson’s latest book, Police Dog Heroes, our reliance upon dogs as a force to be reckoned with is put under the microscope. The authors provide a thorough insight into the history of canine forces within the police, plus 40 case studies of police dogs in action. While it might not sound like the most appealing topic, it’s in fact a riveting read, especially for any dog-lovers out there.

The authors introduce the subject, explaining the foundations of the police force as well as the unofficial introduction of dogs into it. It’s short and sweet; any longer and it could’ve become a chore to read.

Following up from the introduction are 40 accounts of police dogs in action, sometimes from the police dog handlers themselves. This is the essence of the book, and it’s an excellent - often humorous - series of recollections. It’s a charming read and thoroughly insightful into both the successes, but also occasionally the failures of the police dog force. One memorable account recollects an occasion where, after being charged with chasing down a wanted criminal, one police dog opted to attack its handler mid-chase - a disastrous failure for the force, but a comical anecdote to tell.

It’s not all humour and comedy, however. Police Dog Heroes also champions the dogs and their handlers that epitomised the British Transport Police. Not only celebrating the unsung heroes, Police Dog Heroes explains canine involvement in some of the most tense and fragile situations, and how animal involvement defined that moment for the good of society.

As you’d like from a book about dogs, there’s a small coloured insert at the centre featuring photographs of most of the dogs mentioned throughout the book, their names, plus their (sometimes unknown) handlers. Perhaps greatest about this is that you see not only the dogs’ ‘professional’ lives but also their down time. It’s a pleasure to see the variety of breeds used throughout the history of police dogs too - as well as the stereotypical German Shepherd, Labradors, Spaniels and Border Collies are also breeds that have excelled in the police force.

You could be excused for assuming that this is a read only for dog lovers. Yes, it appeals to that particular audience, but there’s so much more to this book than simply celebrating the humble hound. It’s a celebration of British innovation, of those that have built such an unbreakable bond with dogs to strive for the betterment of society. Whether you’re a canine fan or not, this exceptional read is well worth it.

“There’s so much more to this book than simply celebrating the humble hound, it’s a celebration of British innovation and an unbreakable bond with dogs”
LAST RITES: FROM THE TRACK TO THE SCRAPYARD

A personal account of the last days of steam

Author John Evans Publisher Amberley Price £12.99 Released Out now

As author John Evans states in his introduction, there is nothing new about writing about the last days of the steam engine on the tracks of our railway, but the approach he has taken is what sets it apart from the rest. Evans has told his side of the story using photographs that he took when venturing out on that last day of engines and yards alike that are now a part of history, and sadly mostly destroyed today.

The book itself, while offering personal accounts of the different images that lie printed in its pages, is often more of a photo album packed with nostalgia. It offers a vast range of images, from the partially dismantled Morehampton Grange to the lost stations of old.

It can be a little confusing at times, with continued references towards “a few months ago” or “not long ago”, which will unfortunately date the publication quite quickly, as clear how many months, and how long ago, these references take place.

The personal touch that Evans gives to his book is what makes it a more interesting read – the paragraphs flow as if a novel rather than a textbook. With able descriptions building a wonderful atmosphere, and thoughtful tributes to the lost engines, Last Rites is at its best when Evans allows his personal attachment and personality to shine through. Referring to the engines as ‘old friends’ throughout, Evans offers enthusiasts the approach to their beloved pastime that other texts are strongly without.

Though best suited to fans of the railways and trainspotters, Last Rites could be a great starting point for those wanting to become involved in the community. Its easy-to-read approach makes it suitable for most ages, and the love that has been channelled into it will surely inspire many a heart.

THE UNSEEING

Historical crime fiction at its most fragile

Author Anna Mazzola Publisher Tinder Press Price £14.99 Released Out now

Fresh from the mind of criminal justice solicitor Anna Mazzola, The Unseeing is clearly a project that links closely to the author’s heart. It is based around the trial of central character Sarah Gale as she waits for her fate at the hangman’s noose, accused of the murder of Hannah Brown. More commonly remembered as the Edgware Road Murder, a woman was found over the period of a few months, beheaded and dismantled, limb-from-limb. It sounds grotesque, and, really, it was.

The suspects, James Greenacre and Sarah Gale – found from the writing on the sack that the body was found in – were found guilty of Brown’s murder, but even today opinion is divided as to whether or not Gale was a ‘knowing accomplice’ or merely a ‘unwitting dupe’ in Brown’s tragic demise.

The story itself is based around the hard facts of the time, twisted to make the story more evocative to a modern-day reader. There was no record of which police officer was paid to look into the case, which allows Mazzola the freedom to create a story of her own. Enter Edmund Fleetwood. It is in her afterword that Mazzola details what was fact and what was fiction, which in itself is an interesting read.

Adding to the novel, at the opening of each chapter – of which there are 45 squeezed into 350 pages – are famous quotes from literature, ranging from Shakespeare’s King Lear to Eliot’s Middlemarch to the Morning Post and Mrs Beeton’s Book Of Household Management. They each add a touch of flavour to the novel, and remind you of other great works of fiction and non-fiction that would have aided and inspired generations of authors.

Mazzola’s debut is worth the read, it is a great version of events. Her strengths lie in building the scenes within which the horrific events would have taken place, and unfolding a mystery that has fallen by the wayside.
IN BED WITH THE ANCIENT GREEKS

History just got a little bit sexier with this detailed account of the Ancient Greeks and their erotic pastimes

Author: Paul Chrystal  
Publisher: Amberley  
Price: £20  
Released: Out now

The sexual habits of the Ancient Greeks have played a large role in how we have come to understand Greek society and mythology for a long time. From incestuous relationships between the gods to produce offspring, to homoerotic art and the suggestion that homosexual intercourse was accepted among the Greek people, their history has fascinated academics across the years. Paul Chrystal attempts to lift the veil on what the Greeks did between the sheets, what cultural significance their sexual habits had, and what it can tell us about their beliefs.

Chrystal's research on Greek sexuality provides an exhaustive analysis, looking at various Greek societies - from Athens to Hellenistic Greece - and comparing the different roles that sex, prostitution, homosexuality, sexual health and medicine, mythological sex, and sex in drama and literature had in these various societies. It provides an interesting look at the Greeks' notably progressive outlook on sexuality, yet darker themes such as rape, shaming and casting out promiscuous women, incest, and adultery are handled too. The Greeks' fixation with representations of naked bodies, sexual scenes and phallics in art and pottery (supported by beautiful - if a little NSFW - photos) show parallels with our own modern society.

Chrystal's book is a reflection of just how big a part attitudes towards sex and sexual habits plays in society and discourse, and will interest many readers hoping to learn more about Greek life and society. Luckily, this is not the only book in the In Bed With... series - Chrystal also published a similar analysis on the Romans. It's a worthwhile addition to your collection of literature on Greek society, with a bit of a saucy twist.

CLEOPATRA'S SHADOWS

Be captivated by Egypt's little princess

Author: Emily Holleman  
Publisher: Sphere Publishing  
Price: £7.99  
Released: Out now

When young Arsinoe wakes from her sleep, she does not notice anything out of the ordinary - she is in too much of a rush to wave off her father and sister Cleopatra on their latest voyage. It is only when she returns to the Egyptian palace that her world takes a very unusual turn. Her father's trustees are slaughtered in front of her and she is shut in her chambers until her other sister, Bernice, the new ruler of the empire, sees fit to let her out. Her mother has absconded with her younger brothers and the little princess is left all alone.

Meanwhile, the new queen finds herself in a position where she must decide if Arsinoe is of use to her or if she is an errant child that will one day grow to be the biggest threat to her throne. Then there is the question of when her father and the rightful heir to the throne will return from exile, and what surprises they may have in store.

Holleman writes an intense story that fully immerses the reader in the sights, sounds and smells of Ancient Egypt. Although a tough read in the first few chapters, the story quickly picks up speed and soon new life is given to the historical figures. So rarely does a work of historical fiction emulate the women's own wit and courage in a man's world, as Egypt was. For those who demand a lot from historical fiction, this is a must read that will have you gripped until the very last word.
FORGOTTEN HISTORY: UNBELIEVABLE MOMENTS FROM THE PAST
A thrilling and quirky book full of fascinating unknown stories

Author Jem Duducu Publisher Amberley Price £20 Released Out now

Not all history is available at your fingertips, and many of the best stories from the past require some digging. Forgotten History: Unbelievable Moments From The Past is a collection of these hidden gems that you didn't learn in school. A release that will provide even the most ardent history enthusiast with an opportunity to learn something new, the weird and wonderful stories are split into four chronological sections. After getting briefly sidetracked on the question of carbon dating at the start of the text, it soon finds its way and becomes the perfect book to dip in and out of. You'll be reeling off little known facts to all your friends in no time.

Ultimately, some of the stories are better than others, but Forgotten History is definitely more hit than it is miss. There is a light-hearted yet informative tone throughout - and learning about Nazi super-cows will always be a favourite, as well as the fact that all homosapiens were initially lactose intolerant.

The tales range from the silly (Ancient Greeks putting a statue on trial) to the sinister (Ala ad-Din, the man who dared defy Genghis Khan) and the occasional myth buster (croissants aren't French). You'll have to find out for yourself why the year 865 is considered one of the most important dates in British history, though.

The book's author Jem Duducu is the man behind the popular Facebook and Twitter page @HistoryGems and like the success of his social media channels, Forgotten History will become your first port of call for rare and fun historical stories for a long time to come.

MAX
Sarah Cohen-Scali wants you to love this posterchild of the Nazi regime and the Aryan race - but could you ever sympathise with a brainwashed baby?

Author Sarah Cohen-Scali Publisher Walker Books UK Price £7.99 Released Out now

The baby at the centre of this darkly original novel isn't named Max, as the title would suggest. His name is actually Konrad von Kebnersol, as christened by the Führer himself when he was born into the Lebensborn programme, a eugenics project that (though the book is fiction) really existed. But his mother took to naming him Max, the mother from whose womb we first hear Max's voice. And what a voice it is.

As a reader, you are guided through the atrocities of World War II and the Nazi regime from a rather unconventional perspective: the perfect Aryan baby, whose Nazi ideals are broadcast loud and clear before he is even born. Konrad boasts his superiority before he can walk or talk, and the reader follows his career as an infant Nazi going from strength to strength, from deciding upon his first words (“Heil Hitler”) to his devotion to luring Polish children to be kidnapped and ‘Germanised’. Nothing can go wrong for Konrad, until he befriends a boy with equally exquisite Aryan attributes - who happens to be a Jew.

In this strange mix between The Handmaid's Tale and The Boy In The Striped Pajamas, it's interesting to witness a child with an unquestionable faith in the Nazi ideology have his beliefs shaken by the realities of war, but don't expect a big moment of enlightenment. It's never really explained how a child can witness the brutality of rape and murder before the age of six, and have the rational mind to understand and explain it in a clinical manner, yet lack the empathy to connect with the horrors because of his juvenile brain, which is a little unsatisfying to say the least.

Nevertheless, Max is an ambitious undertaking, based on a long list of real life people and events, making the storyline even more chilling. Despite its still-controversial topic, there's plenty of food for thought available in Cohen-Scali's release.
How to make...

DAMPER BREAD

A BASIC CAMPER’S STAPLE
AUSTRALIA, 1780S – PRESENT

Unless you're willing to try your luck hunting a kangaroo, finding food in the Outback can be quite a challenge. In the times of colonial Australia, the stockmen and swagmen who spent months there at a time carried only a few basic rations with them, and developed a recipe for bread made only from flour and water. It was baked in the hot ashes of a campfire, or sometimes a camp oven, and enjoyed with golden syrup or whatever meat was available.

Recipes for ‘damper bread’, as it became known, first appeared in the 19th century, with conflicting tales relating to the origin of its name. According to the Australian Dictionary Centre, it is derived from the Lancashire expression, “something that damps the appetite,” whereas others believe that it is derived from the term “to damp a fire,” ie by covering it with ashes. Whatever the truth, damper bread remains popular to this day, although most recipes now include a few extra ingredients to make it a little bit tastier.

**Ingredients**
- 480g self-raising flour
- 230ml milk
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp butter, softened
- 110ml water

**METHOD**

01 If you have access to a camp oven, or better still, a campfire, then you can bake your damper bread the old-fashioned way. For those less fortunate, preheat the oven to 220 degrees Celsius.

02 Stir together the flour and salt in a large bowl, then rub in the butter with your hands until the mixture resembles bread crumbs.

03 Make a well in the centre and pour in the milk and water. Mix with a knife until the dough leaves the sides of the bowl, then knead together on a lightly floured surface to form a round loaf about 20 centimetres in diameter.

04 Place on a greased baking tray and cut two slits across the dough in a cross shape, approximately one centimetre deep. Then brush the top of the loaf with a little extra milk.

05 Bake for 25 minutes, then lower the temperature of the oven to 175 degrees Celsius and cook for an additional five to ten minutes. When ready, the loaf should be golden brown, and the bottom should sound hollow when tapped.
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The onset of the Meiji Restoration divided Japan with many traditionalists against the modernisation projects that were changing society. Emperor Meiji was swayed by new Western military thought, which saw the way of the samurai diminish quickly. For some samurai, this was unacceptable, and the Satsuma Rebellion got under way. It was led by Saigō Takamori, who many see as the last samurai.

Up against 30,000 men from the recently formed Imperial Army, Saigō and his band of brothers had their backs against the wall from the start. By 1 September, the samurai, now numbering just 400, found themselves trapped on Shiroyama Hill outside of the city of Kagoshima. With the Imperial Army surrounding the hill, there was now no escape and, forbidden to surrender by bushido, all that was left for Saigō to do was to fight to the death. By 6am on 23 September, the massacre had reduced the samurai numbers to just 40. Saigō was badly wounded and, knowing finally that all was lost, committed seppuku suicide. The remaining samurai had no other option but to charge on the Gatling guns one last time and, in a final hail of bullets, the last samurai had been defeated.

Who was the last samurai?

**Sammy Knowles**

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**What happened at the Iranian Embassy Siege?**

**Henry Barrett**

The Iranian Embassy in London was rocked on 30 April 1980 when six gunmen seized the building, taking 26 hostages in the process. The terrorists were members of the Democratic Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of Arabistan (DRFLA) and insisted on the release of 91 Arab prisoners being held by Ayatollah Khomeini in the Khuzestan Province of Iran. Unwavering, the British government refused to negotiate and a siege situation unfolded.

Events began slowly and quietly as the police safely negotiated the released of five hostages, but by the end of the sixth day, the DRFLA members had had enough and killed one of the detainees. This persuaded the SAS to enter the fray. Up to 35 soldiers from an SAS regiment clambered onto the roof and within 17 minutes of breaking and entering, five of the six terrorists had been killed. 19 of the remaining 20 hostages were saved and the siege ended.
When did rationing stop in Britain?
Jake Wright

Despite being on the victorious side in World War II, Britain still felt the strain of the war on its economy and finances for years after the conflict ceased. Rationing, ration books and coupons were still in use for another six years after the end of the war. Sugar, meat and cheese along with other foodstuffs remained controlled until midnight on 4 July 1954, when all restrictions were lifted and post-war Britain slowly started returning to normality.

What was the Norrmalmstorg robbery?
Joanne Tyler

On 23 August 1973, Stockholm’s Kreditbanken endured a hostage situation when Jan-Erik Olsson wreaked havoc in the Swedish capital. The criminal gunman demanded that his friend and bank robber Clark Olofsson be brought to him along with 3 million Swedish Kronor and more weaponry. Olofsson was brought to the location, and over the next few days, the two took up residence in the bank vault with the hostages. The robbery didn’t get far and ended on 28 August when the police managed to capture the two gunmen. During the six days, an unusual situation unfolded in the bank vault in which the captives began to sympathise with the crooks who had imprisoned them. Behaviour such as this is now known as Stockholm Syndrome.

Olsson was sentenced to ten years in prison for his part in the Norrmalmstorg robbery but Olofsson was released on appeal.

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A cinema trip to remember

Geraldine Miller
My grandparents Patrick Joseph Long and Elizabeth Suzanne Long married when they were both in their teens. Elizabeth was an only child as her mother died when she was very young. Her father worked for the furniture makers Waring and Gillows. Elizabeth was living in Shropshire with her father at the time but when her father died when she was only 18, she decided to come to live in Liverpool. Shortly after moving there, she met my granddad, who worked on the docks. They went on to get engaged, and after their wedding they moved into a house in Salisbury Street in the Everton district of Liverpool.

By the time World War I broke out in 1914, they had two children, a son and a daughter, and were expecting their third child. My granddad enlisted for the army and was sent away to fight in the trenches in France. The noise and the gas would cause him to suffer hearing loss later in his life. Unfortunately he was captured during a raid and taken by the Germans to a prisoner of war camp. During his time in the camp my granddad wrote regularly to his wife. Some of the letters did not make it to her, but those that did were heavily censored. The Germans monitored all the letters that the prisoners sent or received so a lot of what my granddad wrote was crossed out.

After a few months the letters stopped coming and the War Department sent my nan a letter saying that her husband was missing and presumed dead. She was devastated as she was by then heavily pregnant and had two pre-school children to raise on her own. She decided that...
she would take the children and go back to live in Shropshire where she had come from. She felt there was nothing left for her in Liverpool. A few days before she was due to leave, her brother-in-law asked her to go to the cinema with him. As well as a film, the cinemas used to show newsreels to explain to the public how the war was progressing. The newsreel started and pictures of German prisoners of war came on the screen. After watching for a while my nan suddenly screamed out loud, “That’s my husband!”

One of the prisoners on the screen was my granddad. My nan fainted with the shock of seeing him. The relief she felt at knowing that her husband was still alive was the best news she could ever have received. The cinema manager learned about what had happened and he presented my nan with a small box. In it was the piece of the film with her husband on it. It became one of her treasures. My nan obviously cancelled her plans to go to Shropshire. When the war ended, my granddad returned home to be reunited with his wife and children. He also met his three-year-old son for the first time. My grandparents remained living in Everton until after World War II. They enjoyed a happy life and were married more than 50 years before my granddad passed away. They had 11 children in total and became grandparents to dozens of grandchildren in the years to come.

That visit to the cinema stopped a family from potentially being split up forever. If my nan had not seen her husband on the cinema screen, she would have moved to Shropshire and her husband may never have seen her or his children again.

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

On sale 18 Aug
Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg is portrayed as a flawless hero, although in reality he was an anti-Semite and initially welcomed Nazi oppression and Germany going to war. Historians believe that he only turned against Hitler when the war effort started to go south.

The film details Operation Speak, in which conspirator Henning von Tresckow plants a bomb on Hitler’s plane. The aircraft was an fw-200 Condor, but in Valkyrie, it is a Ju-52 – a major mistake, as the high altitude of the Condor was why the bomb didn't go off.

The depiction of Stauffenberg as the ultimate hero causes other characters to be interpreted differently. Friedrich Olbricht and the other conspirators in Berlin are made out as being slightly too hesitant while the involvement of Erich Fellgiebel is toned down.

The first assassination attempt on Hitler wasn’t in the Wolf’s Lair but at Berchtesgaden. The change was made to show the inside of the Wolf’s Lair command bunker to help explain that Hitler would have been killed if the meeting hadn’t been moved.

Cruise has a huge physical likeness to the real Stauffenberg and the supporting cast’s roles and uniforms are mostly spot on. A concentrated effort was made to replicate the key locations of the plot with the central communications centre in the film kitted out with fully operational machines from the era.
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