



# A MILITARY ALPHABET

- ALPHA
- BRAVO
- CHARLIE
- DELTA
- ECHO
- FOXTROT
- GOLF
- HOTEL
- INDIAN
- JULIET
- KILO
- LIMA
- MIKE
- NOVEMBER
- OSCAR
- PAPA
- QUEBEC
- ROMEO
- SIERRA
- TANGO
- UNIFORM
- VICTOR
- WHISKEY
- X-RAY
- YANKEE
- ZULU



# WAR FROM A TO Z

- Armageddon
- Battle of the Bulge
- Crusades
- Dresden
- Eighty Years' War
- French and Indian War
- Gettysburg
- Hiroshima
- Iraq
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- Korea
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- Terrorism, Global War on
- Usumacinta
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- Wounded Knee
- Xenophobia
- Yugoslavia
- Zanzibar



# ALPHA BRAVO

A MILITARY ALPHABET  
WAR FROM A TO Z

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Text by Michael Duffy

# Armageddon

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The war to end all wars. The Big One.

The final battle. The biblical heavy weight championship. The Lord cometh to destroy all sinners. Earthquakes and floods. Fire and sulfur. Wailing. Holy hell. The Sign of the Beast. There will be no sequel.

Apocalypse.

T.B.A.

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**BELLIGERENTS**

Christ vs. the AntiChrist

**STAKES**

All the Marbles

**CASUALTIES**

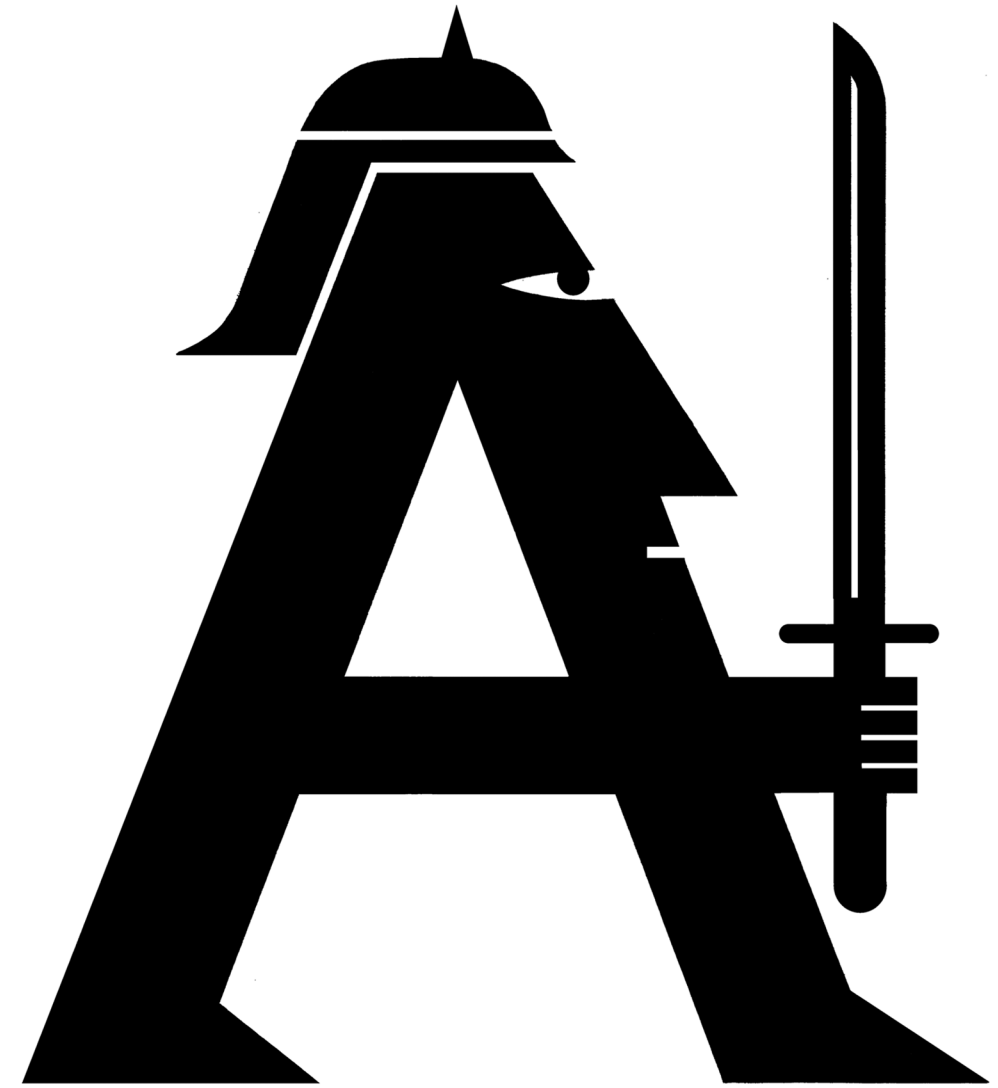
God only knows.

**FUN FACT**

The beast resembles a leopard with the feet of a bear and a lion's mouth, ten horns and seven heads.

**MORAL**

Behave Yourself.



## Battle of the Bulge

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The deadliest battle of World War II. A Bloodbath. A gas-guzzling blitzkrieg of man and machine. Artillery shells and howitzers filled the Ardennes forest with smoke and blood for six weeks in deep snow and frigid temperatures. Propaganda rang from loud speakers in the woods: “Your wives and girlfriends are home in a nice warm building, dancing with other men.” Paratroopers hung in trees. Men urinated on their frozen weapons. Tanks ran out of gas. Teenage German soldiers on crystal meth. Epic trench foot.

Bollocks.

1945

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Europeans

### **CASUALTIES**

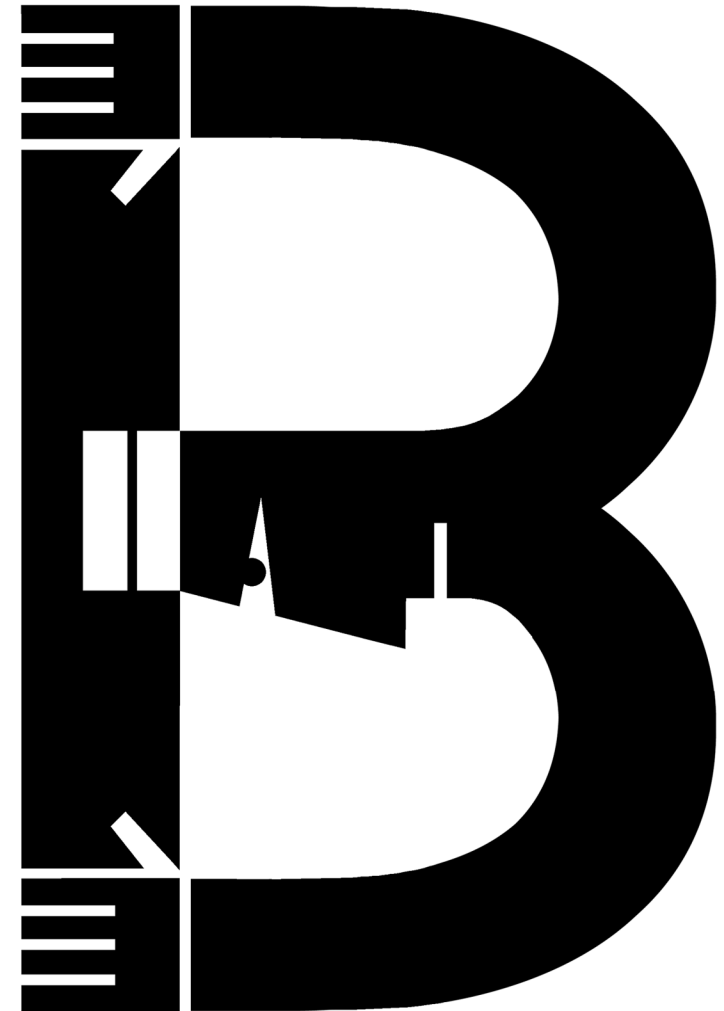
175,000

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was yet to be invented. Soldiers had to settle for Battle Fatigue.

### **MYTHOLOGY**

WWII was the Good War, fought by the Greatest Generation.



## The Crusades

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Christendom was in chaos. Unemployed knights and medieval maulers chopped away with scimitars, warhammers, poleaxes, mace and pike. Pope Urban II, in a job creation scheme for deplorables, launched a mission from God. The Holyland must be taken back from the infidels. Recruits were given plenary indulgences (Get-Out-Of-Jail-Free cards,) a license to kill, and directions to Constantinople. Plunder was a perk. Peter the Hermit and the People's Crusade massacred thousands. The "liberation" of Jerusalem delivered a flood of blood and corpses. The last great ancient library was razed. The bronze horses of the Hippodrome were carted off to Venice. Some say the Crusades were a long act of intolerance in the name of God.

Christ on a Cracker.

1096 - 1292

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Pope vs. Byzantium, Turks, Muslims, Jews, heretics, enemies of Christ, thaumaturges.

### **CASUALTIES**

1,000,000

### **THE JIST OF THE SCHISM**

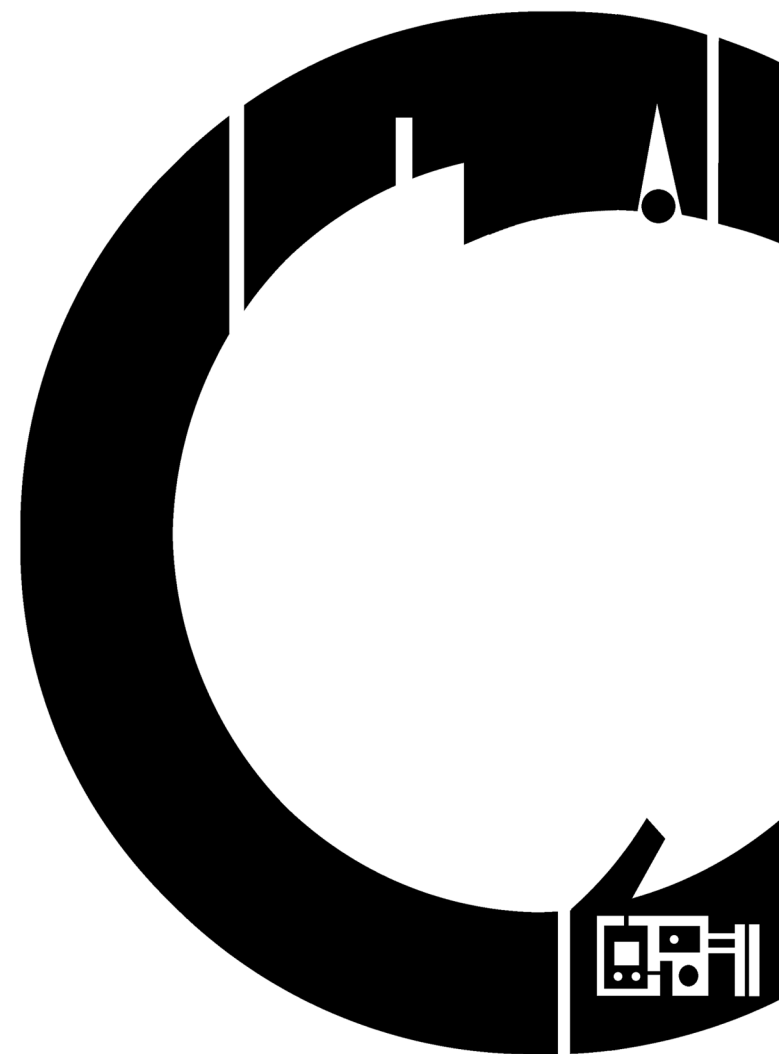
Rome believed in Purgatory and the Pope. Byzantium, not so much.

### **BRANDING**

Knights wore a red cross on their garments. Crusade comes from the Latin word *cruciata*, meaning cross.

### **PROFILES IN CARNAGE**

King Louis IX, AKA Saint Louis, died of dysentery in the final crusade, not before giving us "presumed innocence," Talmud burning, and the Inquisition. One out of three aint bad.



## Dresden

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Over three days in winter, thousands of tons of bombs and incendiary devices were dropped on the defenseless city of Dresden. The explosions blew off roofs and knocked out doors and windows and the fires raged through the perforated buildings. Deafening blasts mangled infrastructure. People were frozen in molten asphalt, aflame. Nurses dragged crippled patients to the Elbe River. Bombers on the second wave of attack could see the fire from 500 miles away. Pilots returned to strafe refugees.

Dante's Inferno.

1945

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Politicians with Bombs  
vs. The Will of the Enemy

### **CASUALTIES**

100,000

### **MOMENTS OF RARE CANDOR**

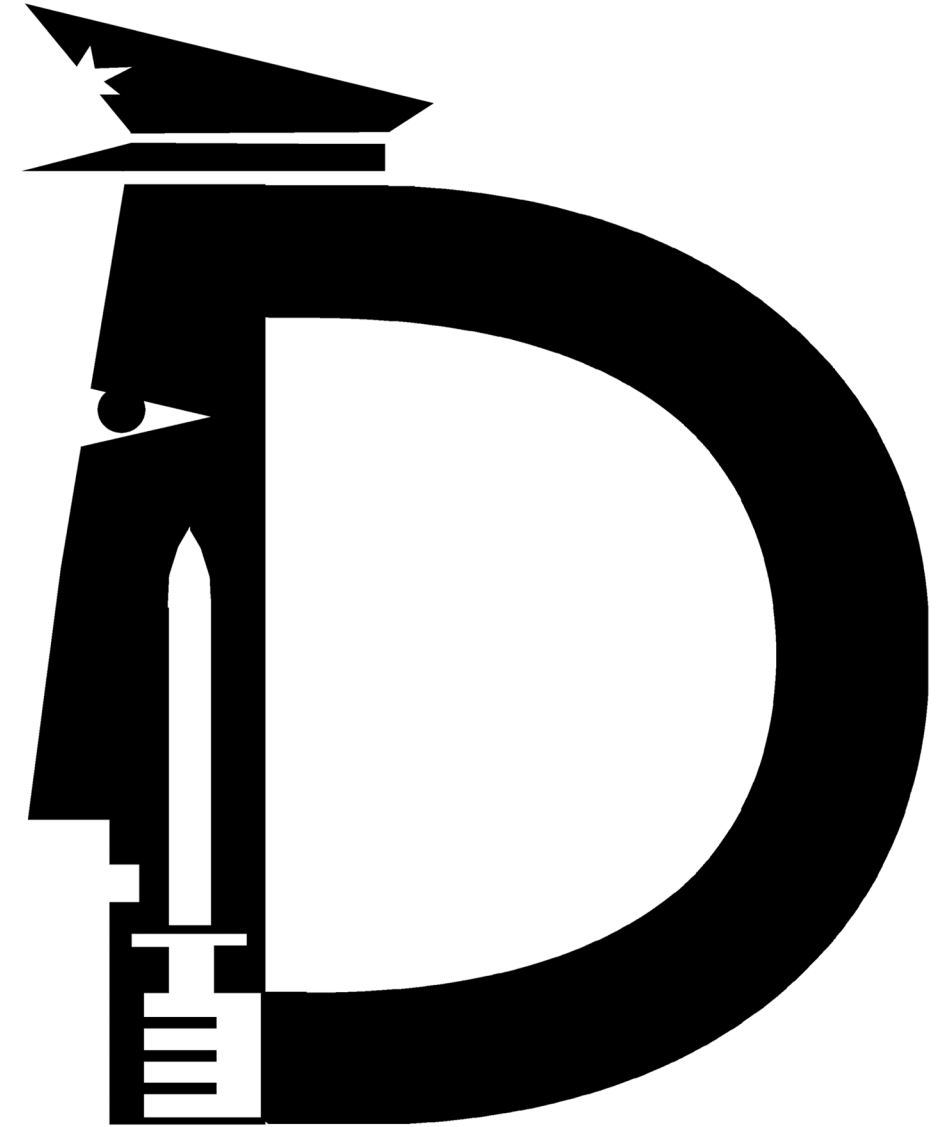
"the government has preferred the world to think that we still held some scruples and attacked only what the humanitarians are pleased to call military targets ... I can assure you, Gentlemen, that we tolerate no scruples" – Chief Bomber Commander

### **DID HE SAY THAT OUT LOUD?**

"the question of bombing of German cities simply for the sake of increasing the terror, though under other pretexts, should be reviewed. Otherwise we shall come into control of an utterly ruined land."  
– Winston Churchill

### **MORALITY**

Dubious.





## Eighty Years' War

A harsh governor was sent to quell unrest in the provinces and promptly beheaded two rebels. The Council of Troubles hanged a thousand heretics. Towns were starved and citizens were abused with cannon, musket, and pike. Castle walls were undermined by sappers. Hellburner ships were loaded with explosives and loosed on rivers, setting bridges ablaze and torching wharves. Occupying armies went unpaid and took their fury out on captive citizens. Soldiers, endlessly on the move, wore their swag into battle: fancy clothes, necklaces, rings, bracelets.

The original Eurozone.

1568 - 1648

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Protestants vs. The Holy Roman Empire

### **CASUALTIES**

Estimated one million dead;  
the Divine Right of Kings

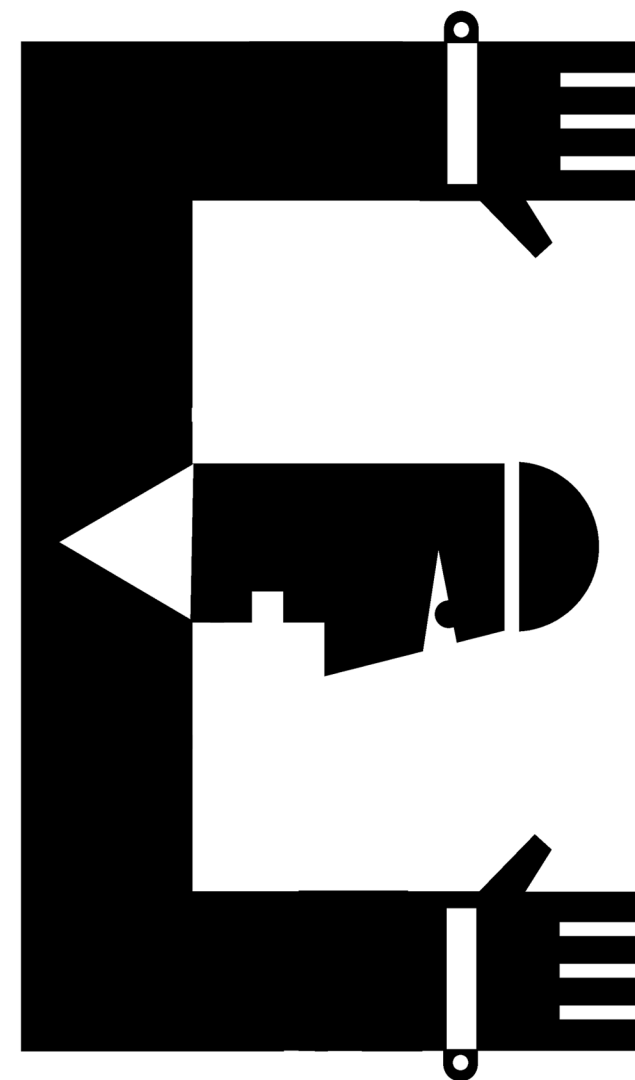
### **WTF IS A SIEGE?**

The siege was the preferred military practice of the day and involved three techniques:

*Investment:* The surrounding of an enemy fort or town with an army to prevent entry or escape and cut off supplies and reinforcements.

*Circumvallation:* The building of ramparts and entrenchments to encircle a besieged city.

*Contravallation:* The building of entrenchments protecting the circumvallation line from outside attack.



## French and Indian War

A European dust-up that jumped the Atlantic.

A war for control of the fur trade of Hudson Bay and ultimately the heart of the continent. Competing invaders pitted native tribe against tribe. Tomahawks dented skulls.

Flintlocks flashed. Complementary blankets carried smallpox. Villages were burned to the ground. Canada was lost to England. New Orleans to Spain. France gave up North America for two sugar plantations in the Caribbean.

Indians fled west. George Washington got schooled in guerrilla warfare. The British army killed thirty of their own in a night-blind meltdown of musket fire.

Free-for-all.

1754 - 1763

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Colonialists and Natives, in various confederacies

### **STAKES**

North America

### **OUTCOME**

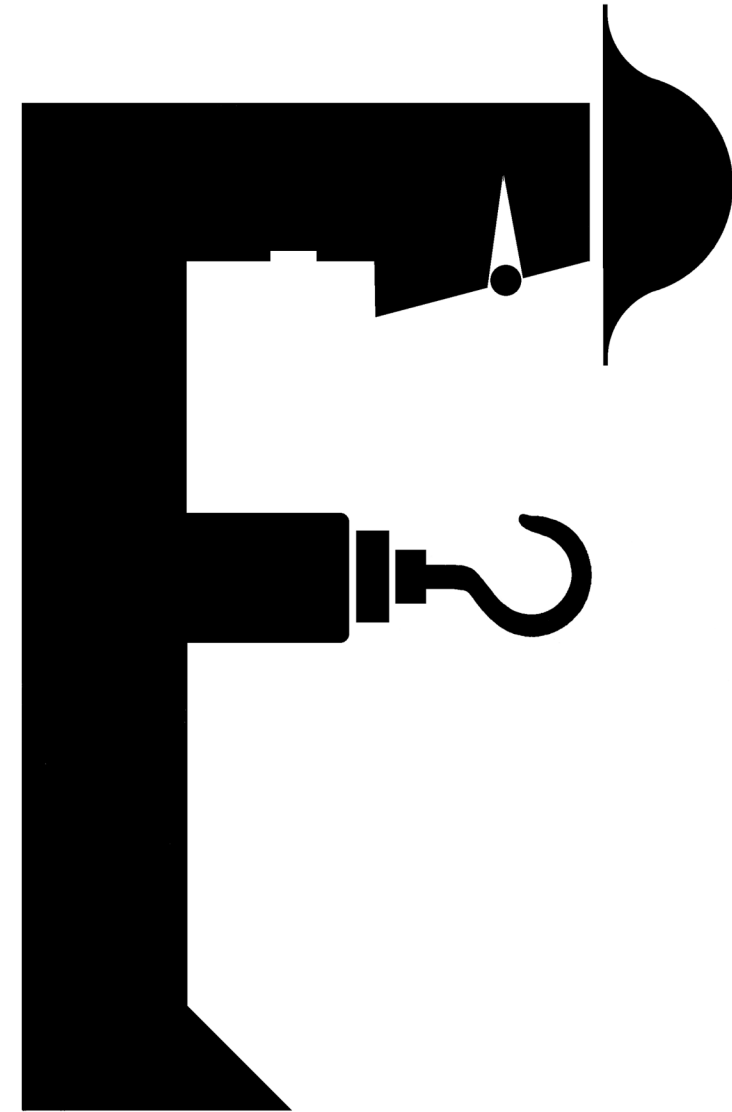
English spoken here

### **FAUX PAS**

Voltaire referred to Canada as nothing more than a few acres of snow.

### **MYTHOLOGY**

Manifest Destiny



## Gettysburg

For three days in July, 160,000 Americans murdered and maimed each other with musket and bayonet and bare-knuckled blows under a rain of cannon fire in the Battle of Gettysburg. Bronze guns called “Napoleons” hurled 12-pound iron balls over a mile in distance. The Whitworth Breechloading Rifle launched a twelve-pound bolt two miles. The din from the artillery barrage was heard 140 miles away in Pittsburg. Army surgeons sawed away under tents and made piles of discarded arms and legs. Two thirds of battlefield deaths were from infection and disease. 5,000 horses and mules died in the battle. Funeral fires smoldered for weeks.

Glory. Gory.

1863

### **BELLIGERENTS**

North vs.South

### **STAKES**

these United States

### **OUTCOME/CASUALTIES**

50,000 dead

### **INNOVATION IN LETHALITY**

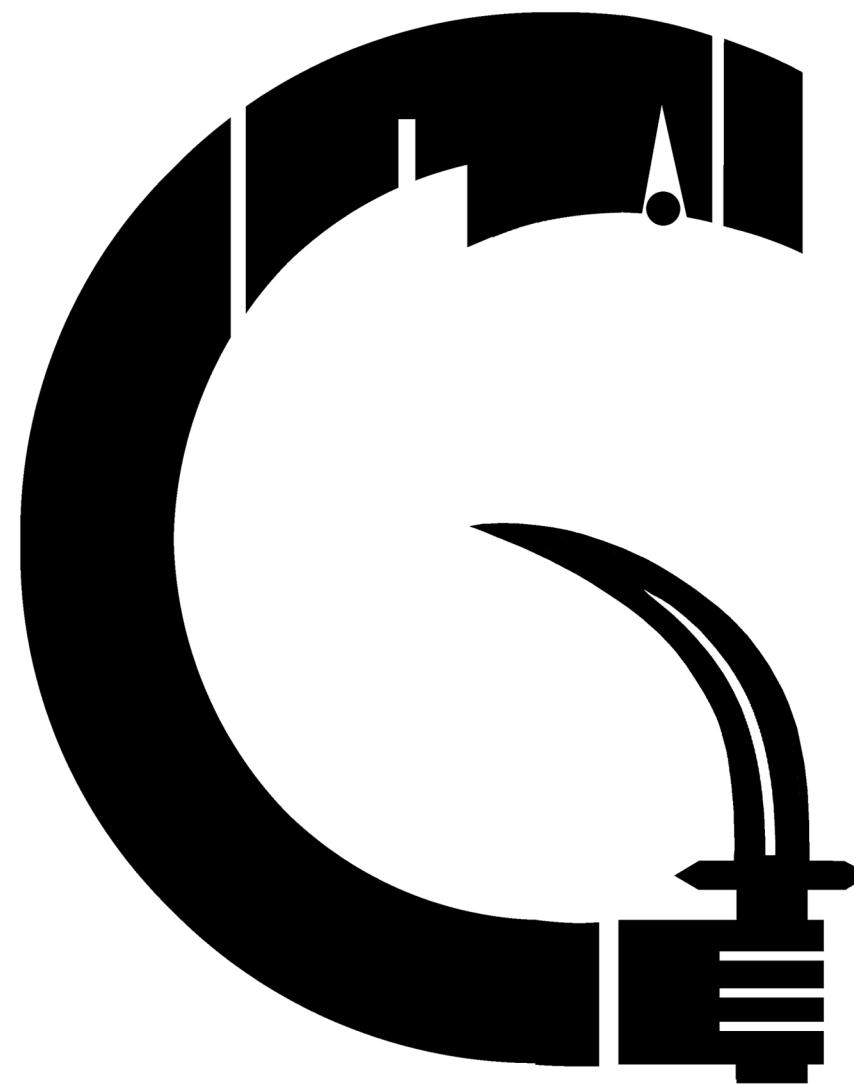
The Minié ball was a hollow bullet that flattened on impact, flaying organ and bone, and left a large, ragged exit wound.

### **HUMANIZING DETAIL**

Robert E. Lee had a bad case of diarrhea.

### **IMPONDERABLES**

Most of the tens of thousands of rifles abandoned on the battlefield were loaded.



## Hiroshima

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Hell on Earth. The citizens of Hiroshima were told to “expect a rain of ruin from the air.”

An atomic bomb named *Little Boy* fell from a bomber named *Enola Gay* and delivered a blinding flash and unleashed a tsunami of death. The storm of fire and gamma radiation formed a furnace two miles in diameter. Souls not cremated instantly died over days and weeks from radiation sickness. Hospitals and doctors had vaporized with the rest. Survivors were called “ant-walking alligators.” Their skin had been seared from their skulls, leaving a black, leathery blob with a red hole where the mouth had once been. They could not scream.

Horror show.

1945

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Technology vs. Innocents

### **OUTCOME**

150,000 dead

### **MORALITY**

Not so much.

### **BEST PRACTICE**

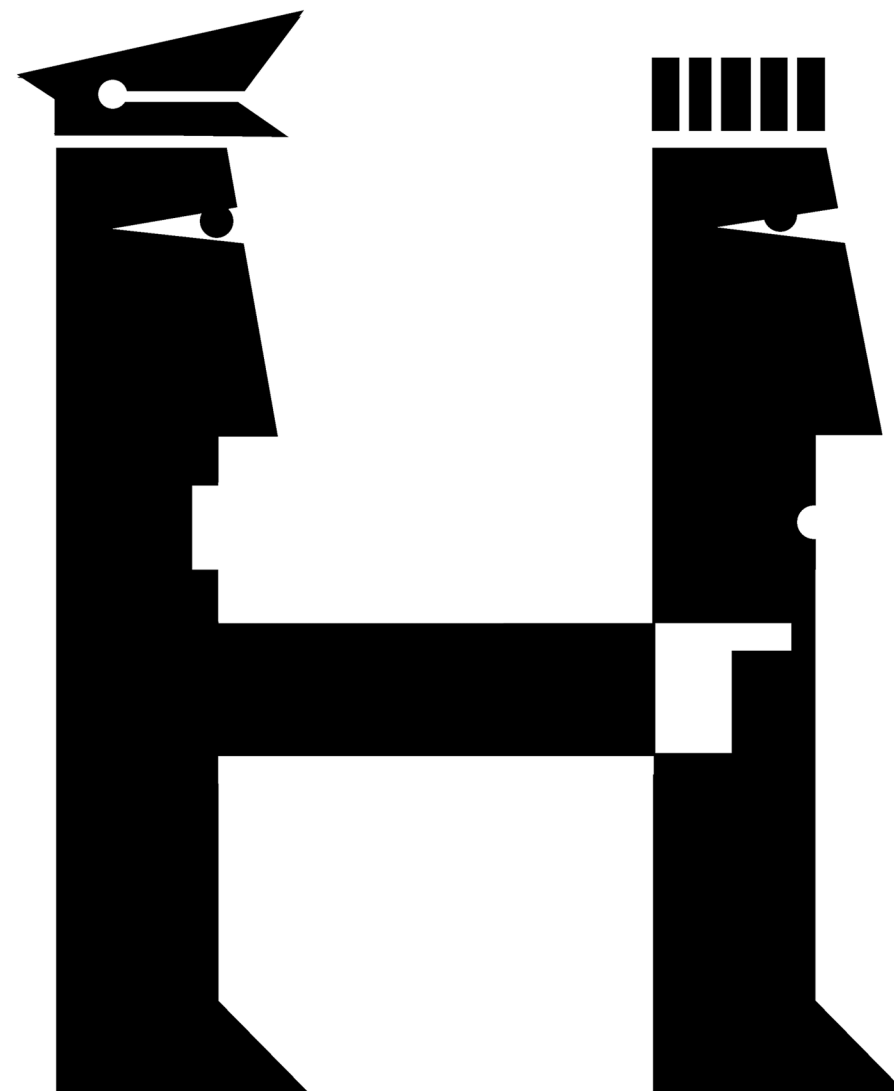
Commanders had kept Hiroshima free of damage so accurate assessment of the bomb’s effectiveness could be made.

### **DUMB LUCK**

The city of Kyoto was to be targeted as well but was spared annihilation by the U.S. Secretary of War, who had honeymooned there.

### **COMFORTING JUSTIFICATION**

The bomb shortened the war.



## Iraq War\*

Million dollar Tomahawk cruise missiles, launched from submarines in the the Red Sea, flew at 500 miles an hour low above the desert to deliver death to a recalcitrant dictator. Stealth bombers flew round-trip from Missouri to lay waste to the ancient city of Baghdad. Warthogs armed with gatling canons fired armor-piercing shells at a rate of 4,000 rounds per minute. White phosphorus made children sick, cluster bombs took their lives and limbs. Guards at Abu Ghraib prison took selfies with stacked and naked prisoners. Journalists were beheaded. Teenagers were snatched to Gitmo. Rebels improvised explosive devices and recruits in air-conditioned trailers vaporized clerics by remote control.

Now with ISIS!

\* A thorough synopsis of this hideous and on-going, illegal and ever-darkening war is not possible within the constraints of this page.

2003 - 20??

### **BELLIGERENTS**

George Bush vs.Saddam Hussein

### **BRANDING**

Shock and Awe

### **DEGREE OF BLOODLUST**

The dictator's head rolled off in a botched hanging.

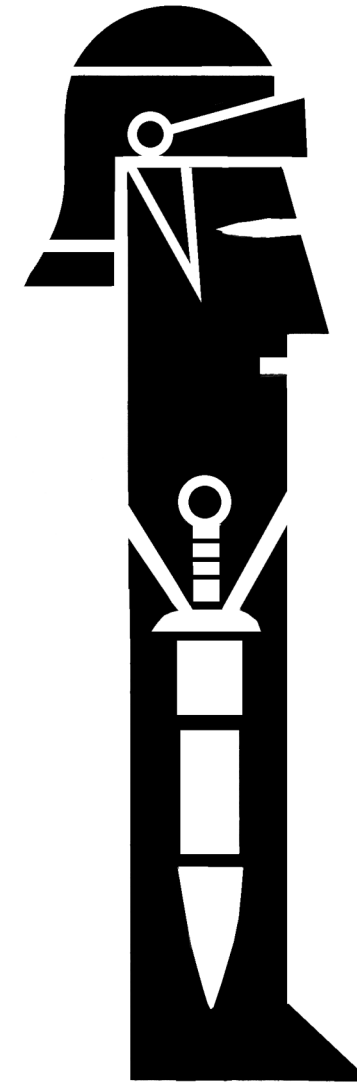
### **EVIDENCE OF CLUELESSNESS**

In a war that rages yet today, "Mission Accomplished" was declared after three weeks.

### **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN VIOLENCE**

1.8 billion rounds of ammunition were spent per year of occupation, 250,000 bullets for each kill.

The Bunker Buster is a 5,000-pound laser-guided bomb nicknamed "Deep Throat" and unofficially nicknamed "The Saddamizer."



## Jericho

The city was under siege. No one went out and no one came in. The Lord said to Joshua, “March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout.”

On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times. When the trumpets sounded, the wall collapsed and they took the city. They destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys, and reduced it to ash.

Junk Science.

1941 - 1945

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Israelites vs. Canaanites

### **FAKE NEWS**

Scholars agree the Book of Joshua’s account of the Battle of Jericho is largely horse feathers.

### **MARK TWAIN ON THOROUGHNESS**

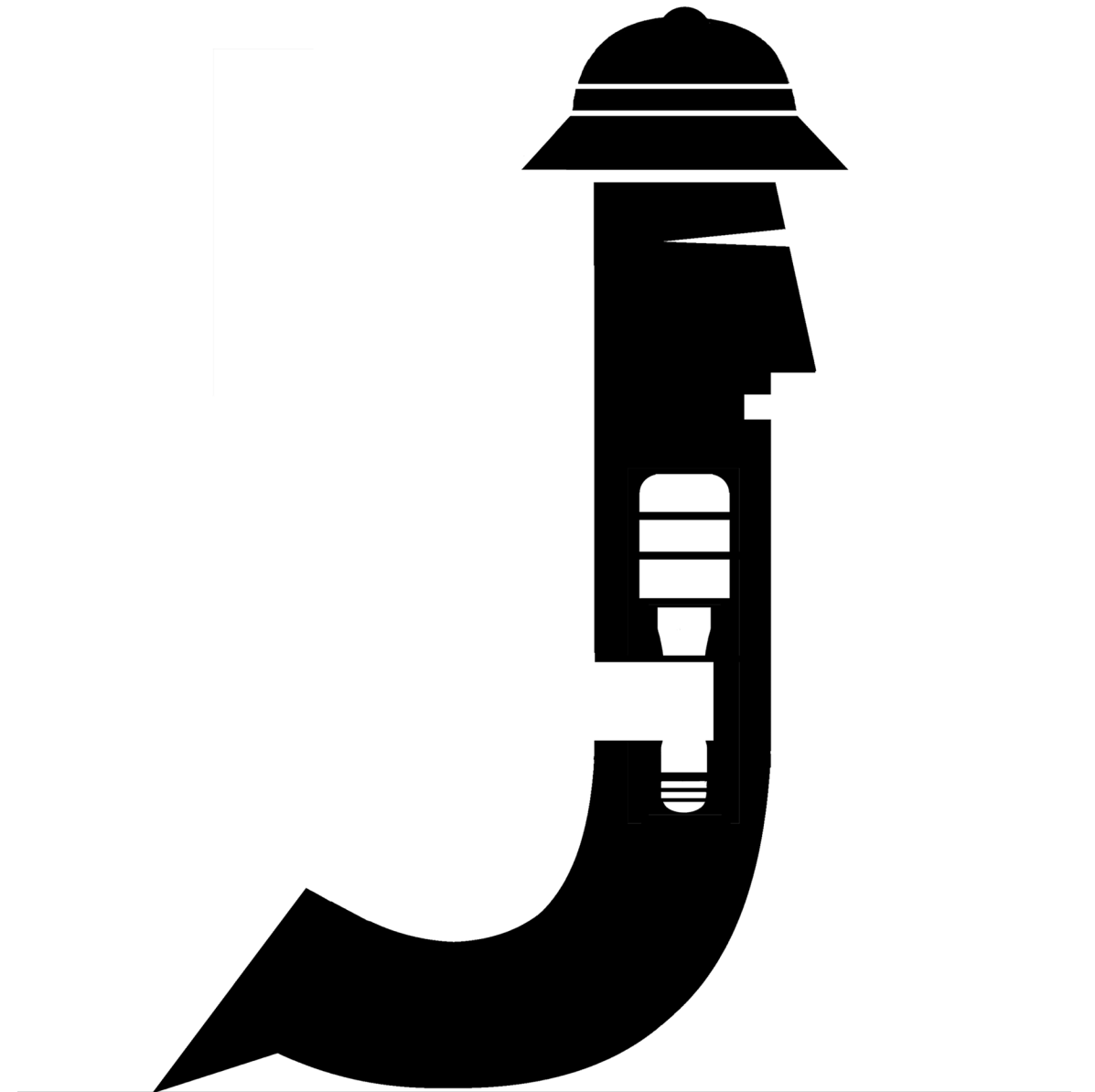
“When Joshua marched around Jericho some three thousand years ago, and blew it down with his trumpet, he did the work so well and so completely that he hardly left enough of the city to cast a shadow.”

### **SCORCHED EARTH**

The total destruction of the enemy and his goods, and the reduction of the city to smoldering rubble was a practice known as *Herem*.

### **IMMORTALIZED IN SONG**

“Joshua fit the battle of Jericho  
And the walls come tumbling down.”



## Korea

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A line in the sand was drawn at the 38th parallel. The Reds took the North and the Yanks the South. The line was crossed. Mig fighter jets took down Boeing super-fortresses. Helicopters dumped guerrillas into the sea, delivered soldiers in pieces to MASH units. Planes bounced off the decks of aircraft carriers and sank into the Pacific. Tens of thousands of rebels were jailed and executed. Soldiers drank water from rice paddies fertilized with human waste. Hundreds of thousands of men were forced to march 300 miles to the war's frontline, dying or deserting along the way. Commies were hunted at home.

Karl Marx lives.

1950 -1953

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Democratic People's Republic of Korea vs. Republic of Korea;  
The first Cold War rumble

### **DEGREE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

"the Korean peninsula was a symbol of the global struggle between east and west, good and evil." – Harry Truman

### **OUTCOME**

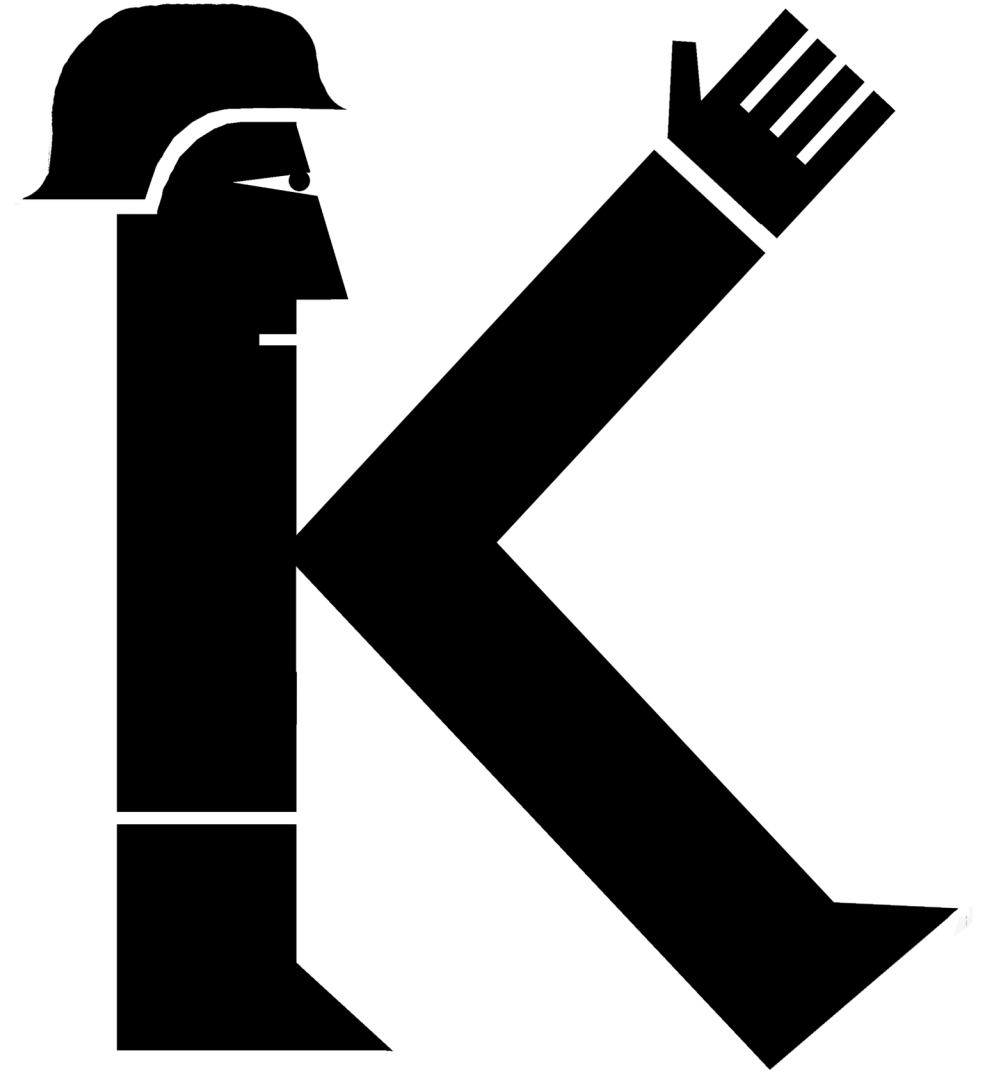
5,000,000 dead; no peace treaty;  
Birth of the Domino Effect

### **MILITARY INTELLIGENCE**

By the end of the campaign, US bombers had no targets left and were reduced to bombing footbridges or dumping their payloads into the seas.

### **MOMENT OF RARE CANDOR**

General Curtis LeMay said that "we went over there and eventually burned down every town in North Korea, some way or another, and some in South Korea, too."



# Little Bighorn

(AKA the Battle of the Greasy Grass)

Gold was discovered in the Black Hills. A treaty was torn up and the cavalry was sent to evict Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. Thousands of Native Americans gathered along the Little Bighorn River. An upbeat General and 600 soldiers entered the river valley. The Indians were well-armed with repeating rifles, revolvers and other firearms. Sitting Bull's nephew owned a muzzleloader. The soldiers took heavy fire and were ordered to shoot their horses and stack the carcasses to form a wall against bullets. Within an hour all were dead. The Indians stripped and mutilated the bodies of the dead to force them to walk the earth for all eternity.

Legacy.

1876

## **BELLIGERENTS**

Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho vs. the 7th Cavalry

## **CASUALTIES**

George Armstrong Custer

## **TROOP FEEDBACK**

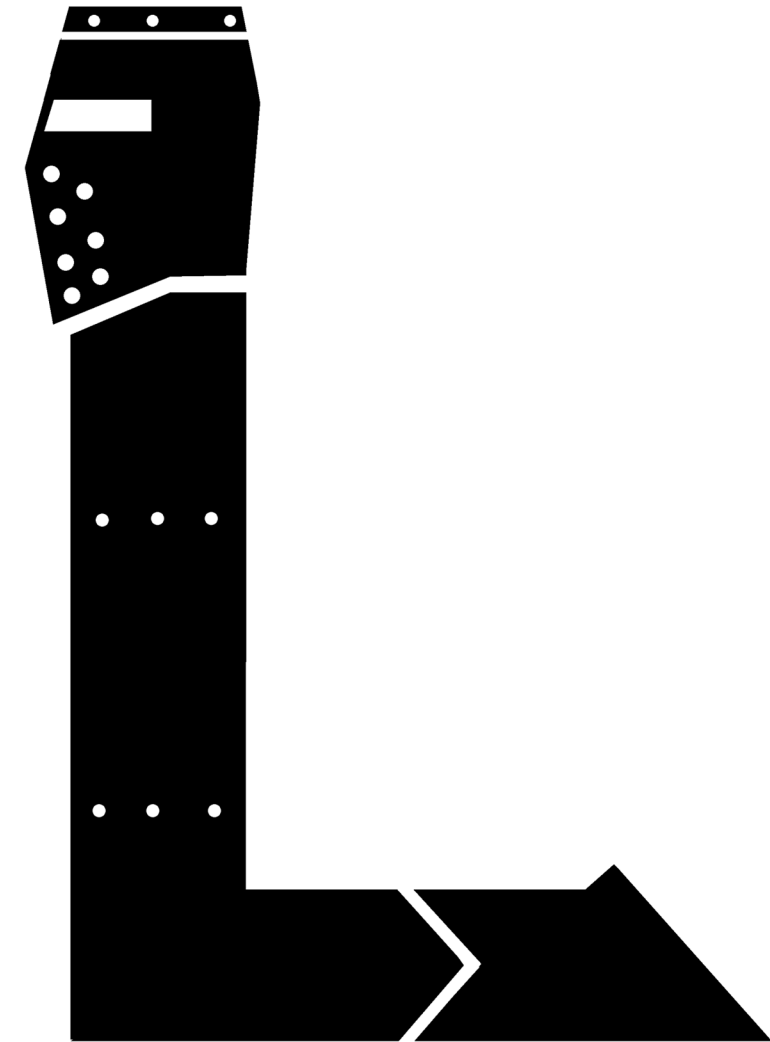
Soldiers called the Colt revolver a "thumb-buster."

## **CHIVALRY LIVES**

Custer ordered that his wife, Elizabeth, who often rode with the cavalry, should be shot by an officer than be taken by the Indians.

## **FREE ADVICE**

Cavalrymen were told to save the last bullet for themselves.





## Mongol Invasions

Major cities ran with blood. Enemies surrendered rather than face oblivion at the hands of the notorious Genghis Khan, who mused: “The greatest joy a man can know is to conquer his enemies and drive them before him. To ride their horses and take away their possessions. To see the faces of those who were dear to them bedewed with tears, and to clasp their wives and daughters in his arms.” Beijing was sacked and Baghdad utterly demolished. The Grand Library was razed and the Euphrates ran black with ink. They rolled the caliph up in a rug and rode their horses over him. They offered the city of Kiev terms for surrender, but when rebuffed, lambasted the city with gun powder bombs and flaming naphtha. They burned its buildings and massacred its citizens.

Murderous.

1206–1337

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Mongols vs. Unfortunates in their path

### **MONGOL MESSAGING**

Surrender or die

### **PREGAME RITUAL**

Defenders of a city under siege removed large rocks from the region to deny ammunition for trebuchets.

### **THREAT ASSESSMENT**

China’s Great Wall was built to keep out the Mongols.

### **COMPETITIVE EDGE**

Stirrups enabled Mongol archers to turn their bodies and shoot in all directions.

### **THE LIGHTER SIDE**

Diseased cadavers were catapulted into towns.

### **BRANDING**

The Golden Horde



# Ninevah

Ninevah was the largest city in the world and the heart of the badass Assyrian Empire. Its professional army was ruthless and fought with weapons of iron and rode sweet chariots. They burned down Babylon, razed its temples and made off with the statue of the god Marduk. They besieged Jerusalem by means of earth-ramps and battering-rams and placed its leader in a cage like a bird. The captured were relieved of their hands and feet. Ninevah's enemies united in vengeance. They overran the rich capital city of arches and aqueducts and laid waste, erased it utterly from history. God make Nineveh a desolation, a wasteland, as the Bible foretold.

Nuts.

612 BCE

## BELLIGERENTS

Assyrians vs. Medes and Babylonians

## STAKES

Mesopotamia

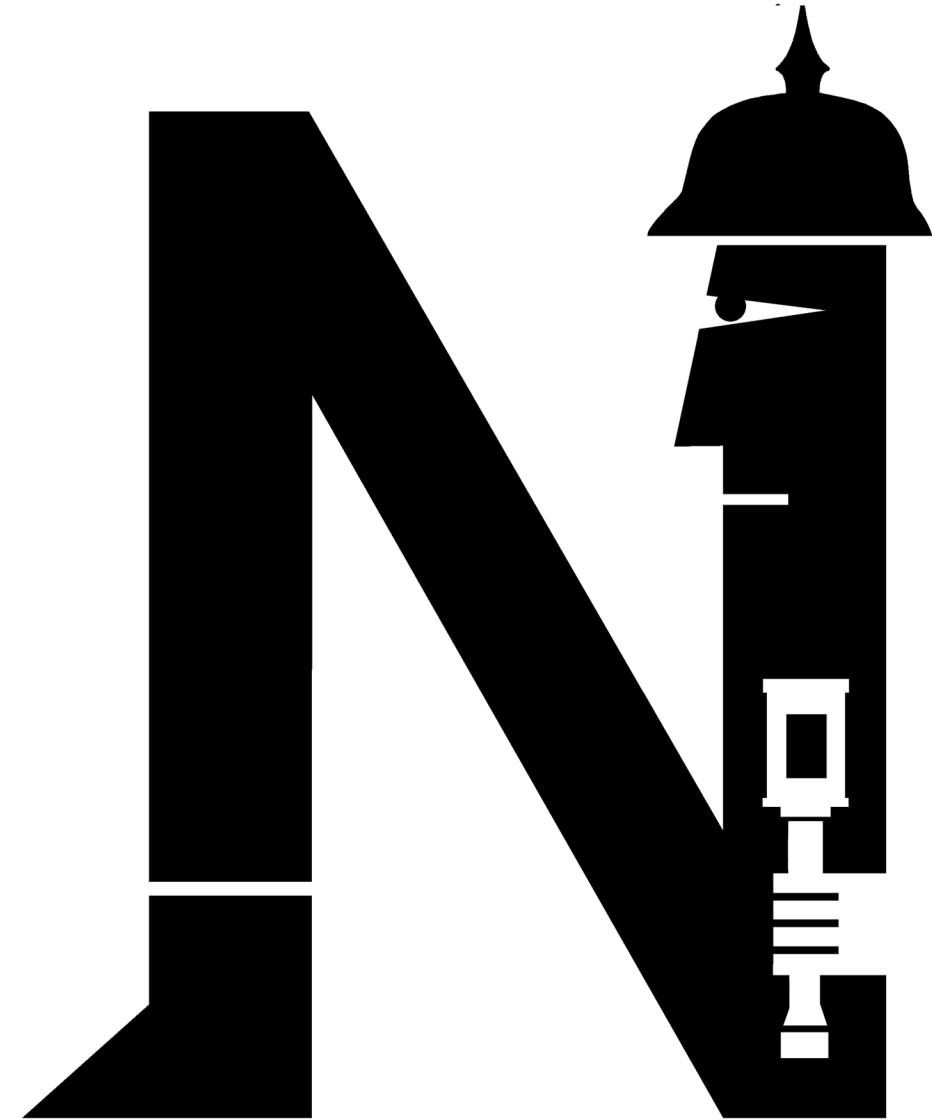
## ANNALS OF ANNIHILATION

Ninevah was so thoroughly flattened that it wasn't until the 19th century that its treasures were discovered, many hauled off to the British museum.

The tomb of Jonah, one of a very few surviving monuments of Assyrian culture, was destroyed by lunatic fundamentalists in 2014.

## BATTLEFIELD INNOVATION

The Assyrian military invented the army boot.



## One Hundred Years' War

England and France were at each others' throats for generations in the Hundred Years' War. Soldiers wore pointed steel skull-caps. The harquebus hand gun spat misery. Arrows from longbows removed steel-plated knights from atop armored horses. The duke of Burgundy fired 412 cannonballs into the town of Lagny and killed but a chicken. Joan of Arc joined the battle to liberate the city of Orleans and was held back by missile fire, scalding oil, hot coals and quicklime. With a bum leg, she grabbed a ladder and led the assault on the battlements. Shakespeare gave us the pre-game pep talk : "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers" in his play about the Battle of Agincourt, *Henry V*.

One hundred years!

1337 - 1453

### BELLIGERENTS

Kingdom of England vs. the Kingdom of France, Kingdom of Scotland

### STAKES

Obstensibly about claims to the throne, the war was ultimately about real estate.

### CASUALTIES

Three Million souls; Chivalry

### AND IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH

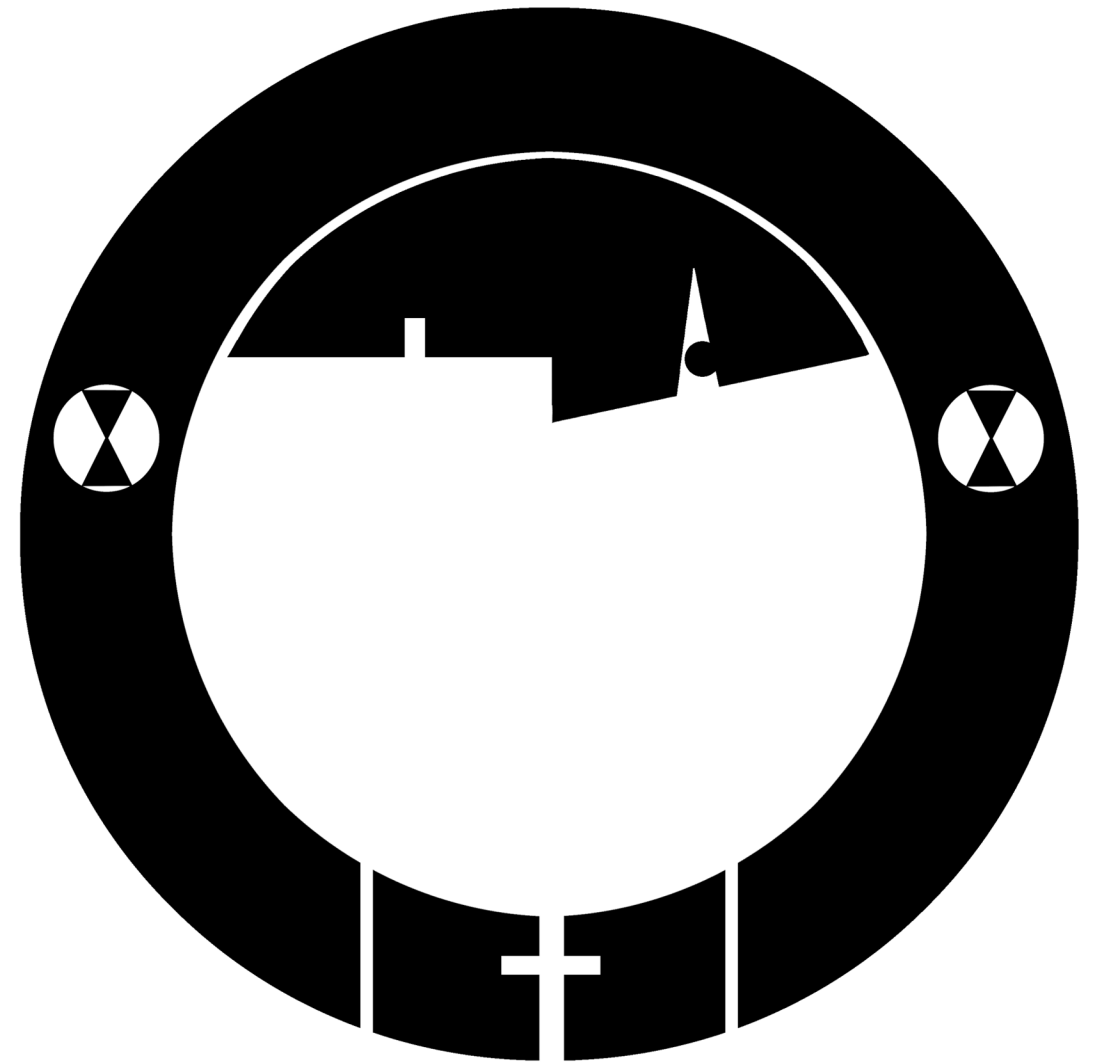
Bubonic plague and warfare killed half the population of France and a third of England's during the war.

### OUTCOME

État français.

### FEAR FACTOR

Combatants surrendered in the face of the new and horrible gunpowder weapons and artillery.



## The Peloponnesian War

Athens versus Sparta. Things just got real. Greek warfare, once a formal affair with peltasts and archers arrayed in phalanxes, became a fully capitalized, professional onslaught on civilians. Navies of hundreds of ships roved the Aegean Sea, besieging populations. Mercenaries – skirmishers, sailors, and siege engineers – set new standards for brutality. Well remunerated and thorough, they raped and murdered, set cities on fire, and generally laid waste. The island of Melos was neutral in the conflict but saw its men murdered and its women and children sold into slavery.

Polemic. (Gk. *polemikos*, hostile < *polemos*, war.)

431 - 401 BC

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Greek Empire vs. Peloponnesian League

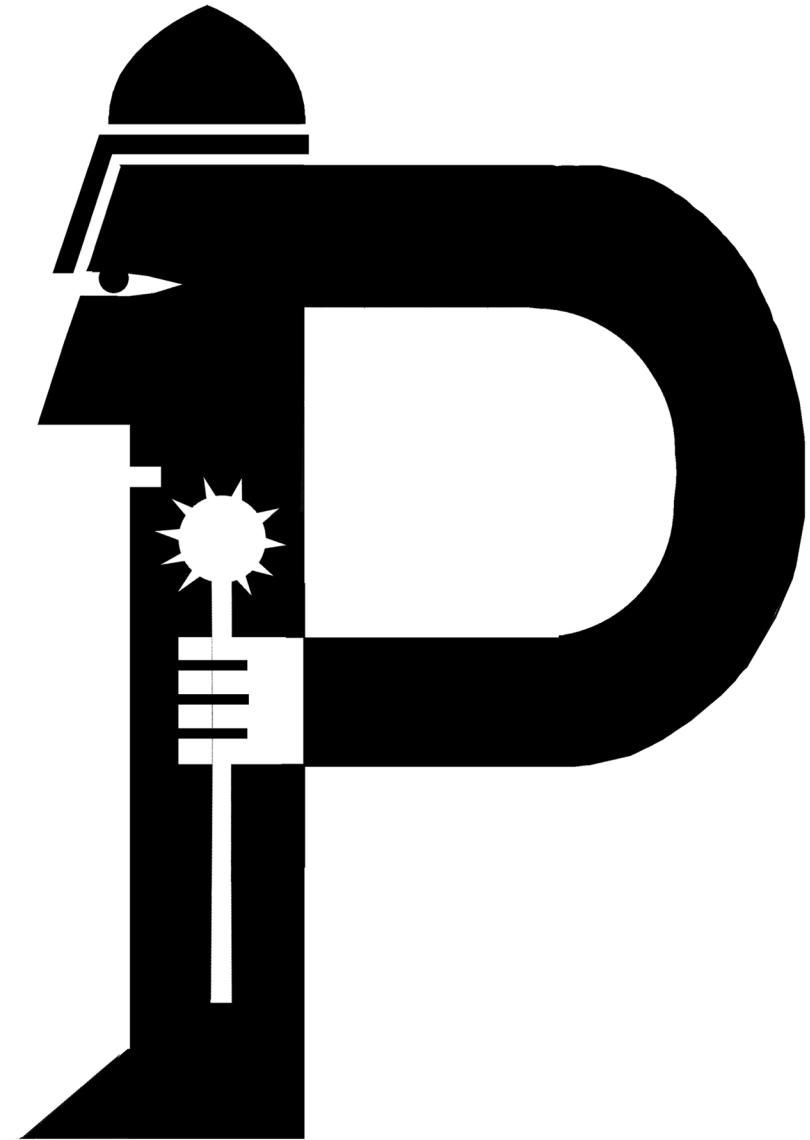
### **CASUALTIES**

The Golden Age of Greece

### **PRESS COVERAGE**

Thucydides, the Greek historian who wrote the book *the Peloponnesian War* said war, not peace, is the default human position.

Aristophanes' comedy *Lysistrata* is an account of a woman's attempt to end the Peloponnesian War by denying men sex.



## Quemoy

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Nationalist troops were stationed on Quemoy, a tiny island off the coast of China, to the chagrin of the communist dictator. Bombs were launched from the mainland. Howitzers returned fire, lobbing 200 pound shells 10 miles over the Taiwan Strait. Jets were equipped with air-to-air missiles in an operation called “Black Magic.” After a peace agreement, both sides continued to bomb each other for twenty years on alternate days of the week with shells containing propaganda leaflets.

Disquieting.

1958

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Intramural China, Free vs. Red

### **STAKES**

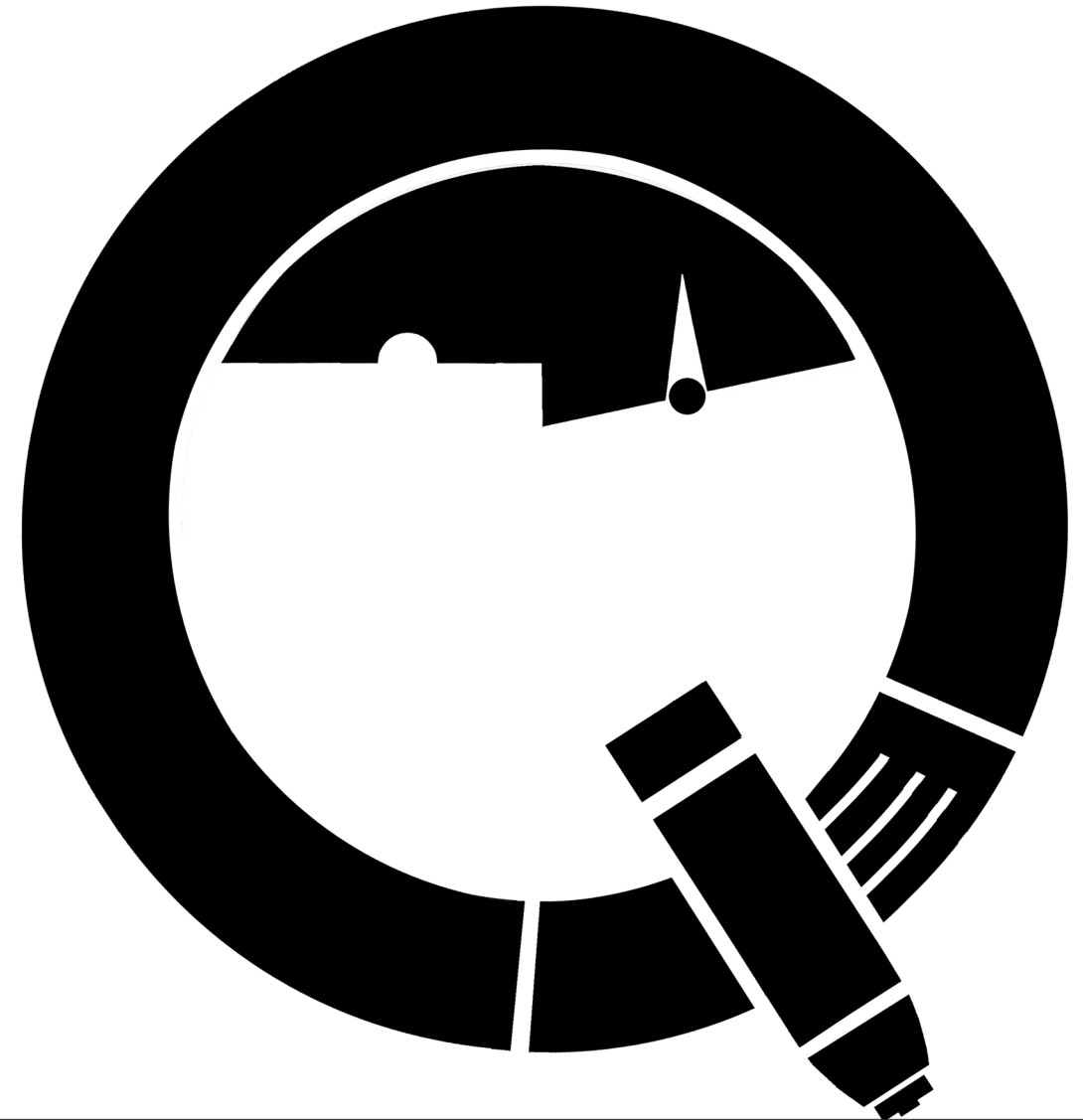
Supremacy of Taiwan Strait,  
Cold War pissing match

### **SOW'S EAR**

Locals made meat cleavers from spent bombshells.

### **NEW WRINKLE**

Armed with nuclear weapons, superpower adversaries were reluctant to escalate hostilities, and decided Quemoy was no biggy. Armageddon was postponed. The era of Mutual Assured Destruction dawned.



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Quebec

## Rwanda

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One million Rwandans were killed in 100 days. Two thirds of the Tutsis, 20% of Rwanda's total population, hacked to death by machete. Hutu civilians raped, maimed, and killed their Tutsi neighbors and destroyed or stole their property. Two million souls fled to refugee camps, where cholera and dysentery were rampant. Families were reduced to orphaned children and widows. War rape spread HIV infection. Men's genitals were mutilated and displayed as trophies in public.

Race war.

1994

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Hutu vs. Tutsi

### **STAKES**

Life and death

### **OUTCOME**

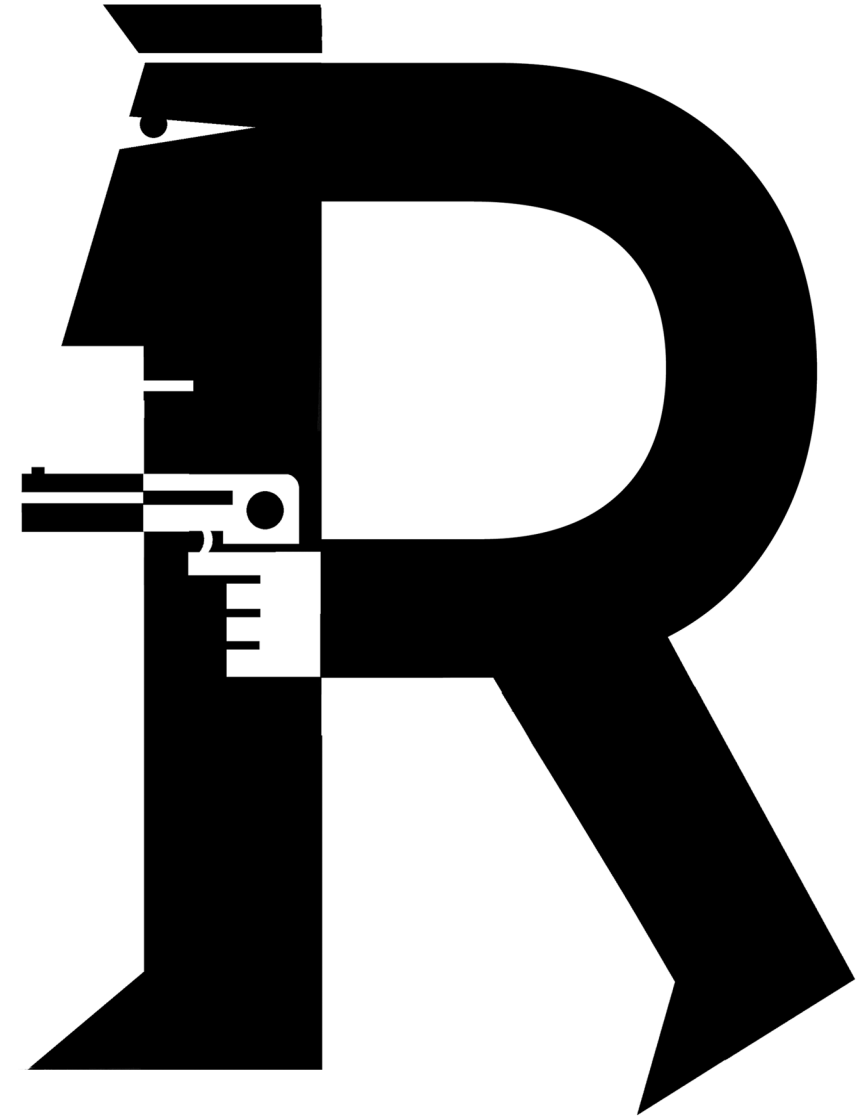
Collapse of civil society

### **DIABOLICAL TACTIC**

Hundreds of AIDS patients were released from hospitals and formed into "rape squads."

### **MORAL**

Don't be a Tutsi



## Somme

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The Battle of the Somme. Million man mud fight. Hundreds of thousands dead. Trench warfare. Incessant aerial bombing. A war of exhaustion and 20th century killing efficiency. Soldiers sucked carbon monoxide through chain mail masks in crippled tanks. Casualties on the first day were the worst in the history of the British army, nearly 60,000. Urine soaked rags were used against Chlorine and phosgene gas. Lice carried trench fever. Rats plundered corpses.

Sadism.

1916

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Europeans

### **STAKES**

6 miles of dirt

### **OUTCOME**

Over a Million deceased

### **LESSON UNLEARNED**

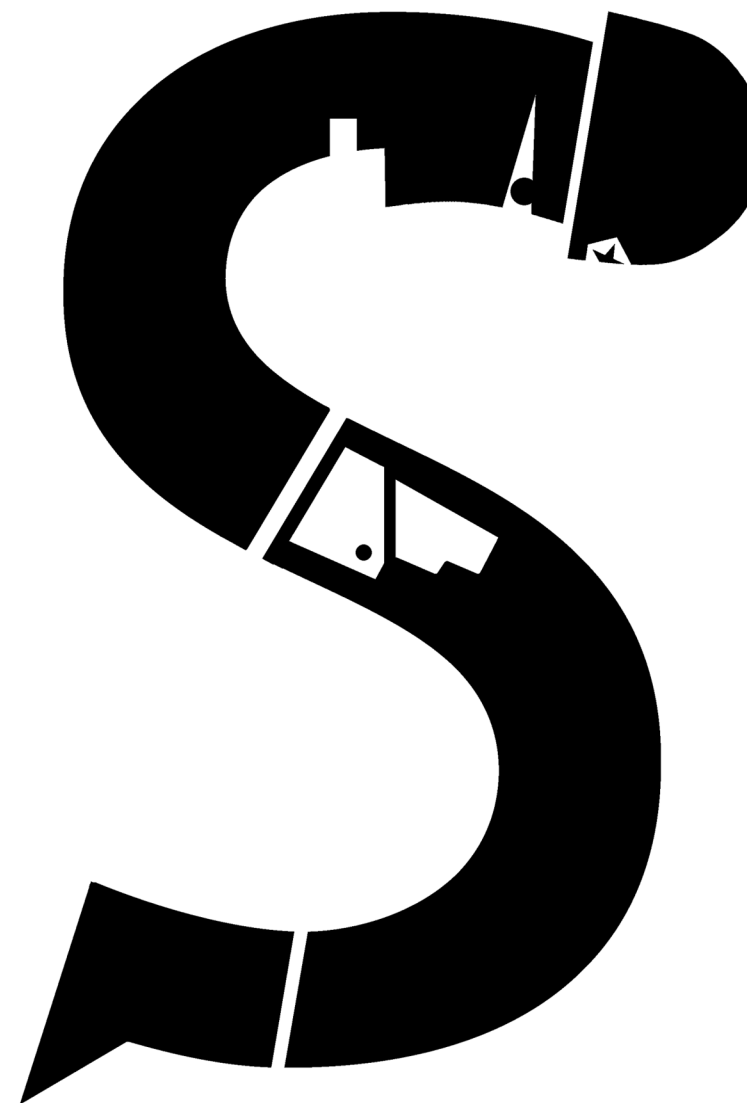
Adolf Hitler was hit by shrapnel in the Battle of the Somme. "More like hell than war," he said.

### **WORK-AROUND**

When the army wasn't interested, Navy Secretary Churchill developed the tank as a "landship."

### **ADVANCEMENTS IN DEPRAVITY**

Barbed wire, machines guns, poison gas.



## Terrorism, Global War on\*

Terrorists with box-cutters, operating on orders from a guy in a cave in Afghanistan, evaded the defenses of the most heavily armed nation in history and brought down the Twin Towers, launching a war on a noun that knows no end. The demolition was controlled. Interrogations were enhanced. Renditions, extraordinary. The Homeland was insecure. Nail clippers were confiscated. Grandmothers got groped and personal packages were prodded. Privacy pulverized. The mundane militarized. Drone hits. Black sites. Water-boarding. Targeted assassinations. Blowback. If you see something, say something. Look! Over there!

Touchie.

\* Space does not permit an adequate summation of this mad malignancy.

2001 - ?

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Us vs. Them

### **CASUALTIES**

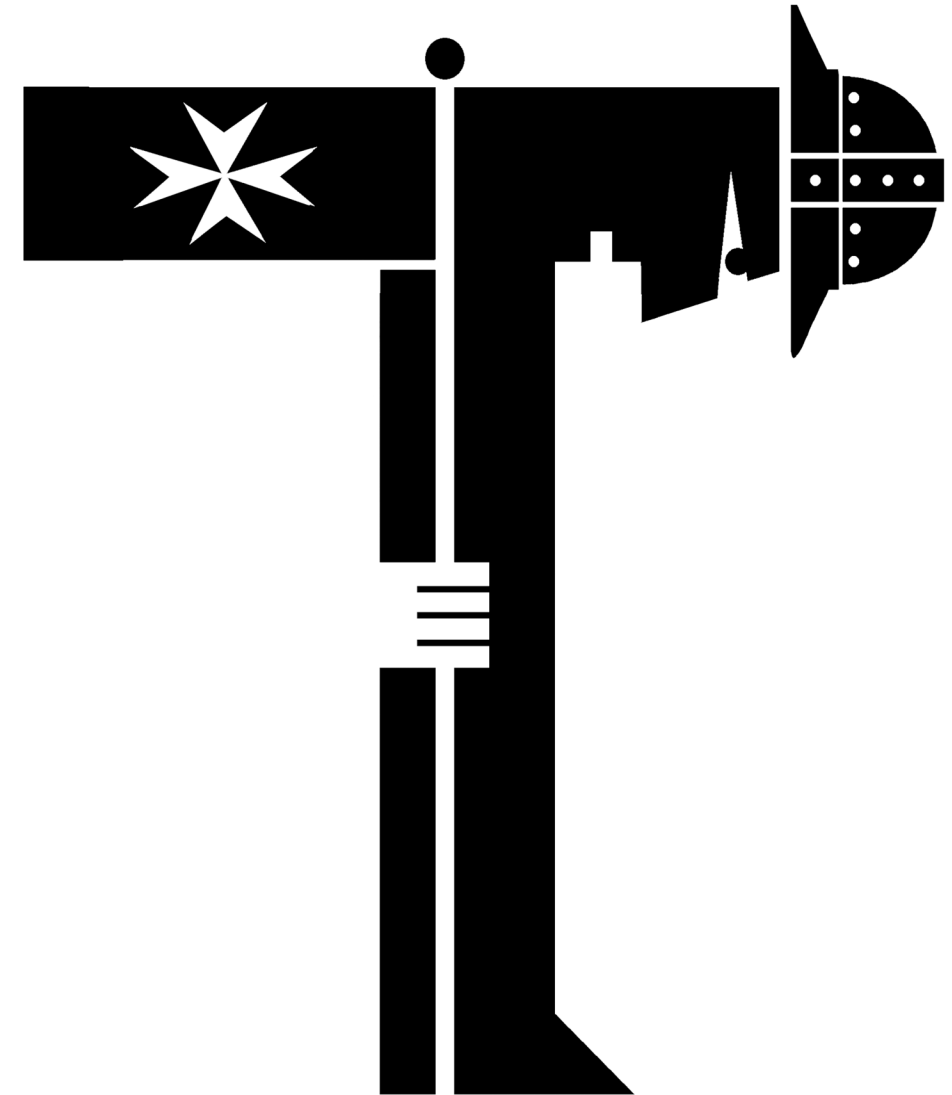
The European Enlightenment

### **KNOW YOUR TERRORIST**

Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas, Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda, Isis, Daesh.

### **CATCH PHRASES**

They hate us for our freedoms.  
Your either with us or against us.





## Usumacinta

The Mayan cities of Piedras Negras and Yaxchilán fought each other for control of the Usumacinta River, the major trade route in Mesoamerica. Plumed and painted, with jaguar headdresses and decorated shields, they ambushed the enemy, running mad with whistles and drums. Their arsenal included reed arrows, spiked clubs, axes with blades of jade, blow guns, poison darts, and spears and knives made of obsidian. People were captured for slaves and sacrifices. Defeated ruling families were publicly tortured and sacrificed. Beheadings were staged as public spectacle and ball games were played with the severed heads.

Unreal.

500 - 800

### **BELLIGERENTS**

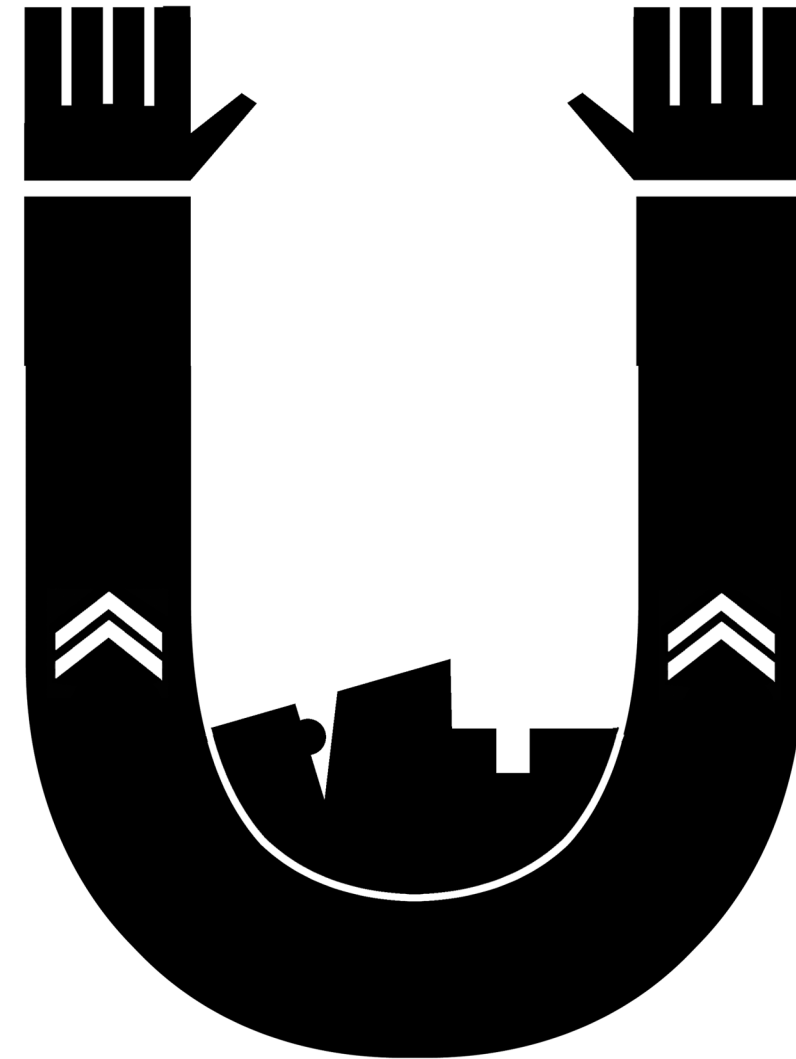
Mesoamericans

### **OUTCOME**

Lost to the jungle

### **INNOVATION IN WARFARE**

The atlatl.



Uniform

## Vietnam

Year after year, B52s delivered a “rolling thunder” of utter devastation to Vietnam. Anti-personnel mines atomized peasants. Soldiers shot children, cattle and dogs for sport, The genitals of village chiefs were sliced off and sewed inside their bloody mouths. Tongues were cut out. Lances of bamboo were run through heads like swizzle sticks. Million of gallons of Agent Orange defoliant were dumped on Vietnam hamlets, farms and jungles. Prostate cancer, respiratory cancers, multiple myeloma, Diabetes mellitus type 2, B-cell lymphomas, soft-tissue sarcoma, chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, peripheral neuropathy, and spina bifida appeared in the children of veterans.

Victor Charlie.

1955 - 1975

### **BELLIGERENTS**

South Vietnam, United States, South Korea, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Khmer Republic, Kingdom of Laos, Philippines, Republic of China, Canada, West Germany, United Kingdom, Iran, Spain, Malaysia

vs.

North Vietnam, Viet Cong Khmer Rouge, Pathet Lao, People's Republic of China, Soviet Union, North Korea, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, East Germany, Romania, Sweden

### **OUTCOME**

3 million dead

### **THE LIGHTER SIDE**

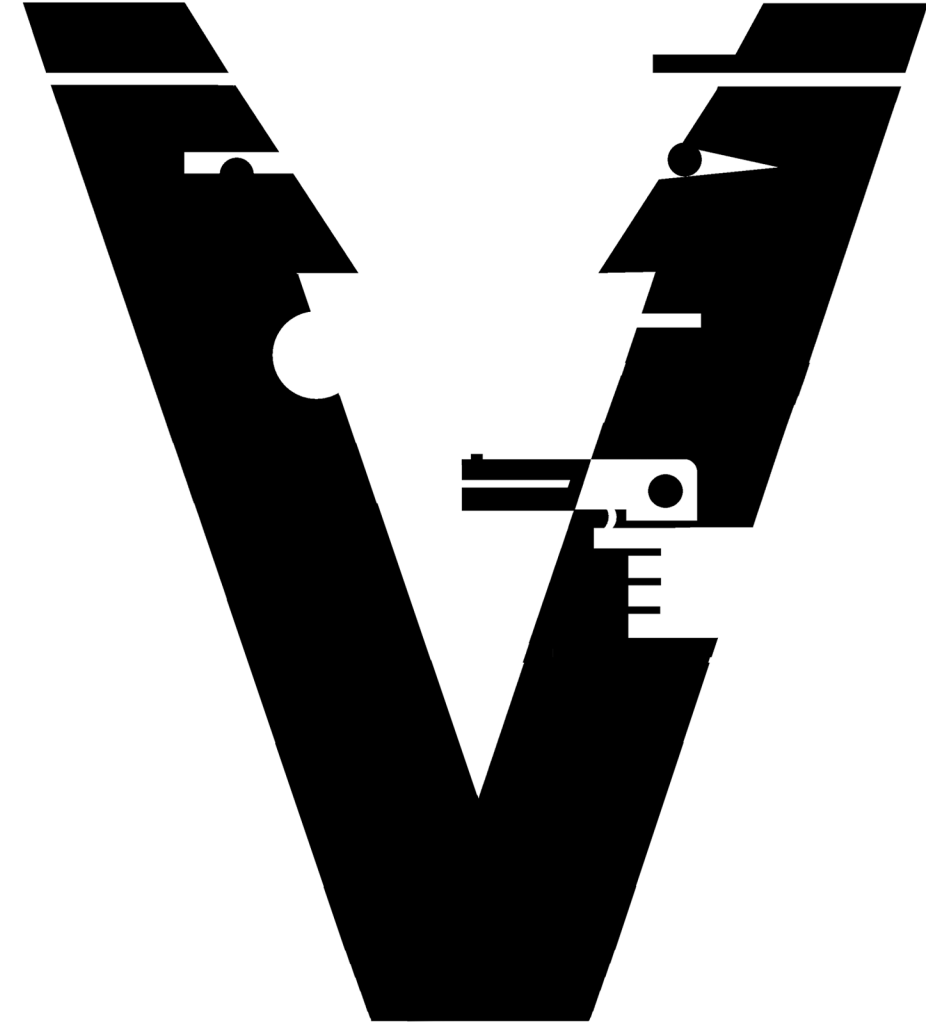
DC-3 aircraft with cannon capable of firing 100 rounds per second were called “Puff the Magic Dragon.”

### **CATCH PHRASES**

Kill 'em all and let God sort 'em out.

Charlie don't surf

Better dead than red.



## Wounded Knee

The 7th Cavalry captured Spotted Elk's band of Lakota near Porcupine Butte and led them to Wounded Knee Creek. The encampment was surrounded by troops supported by a battery of four Hotchkiss mountain guns. Black Coyote wouldn't surrender his rifle, claiming he had paid a lot for it. A scuffle ensued, a shot was fired, and the 7th Cavalry opened fire indiscriminately from all sides, killing men, women, and children, as well as some of their own comrades. Little boys came out of hiding and were butchered with swords, mowed down as they ran. When it was over, more than 150 men, women, and children had been killed. Twenty soldiers were awarded the medal of Honor.

Wiped out.

1890

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Christians vs. Savages

### **STAKES**

Indigenous culture

### **OUTCOME**

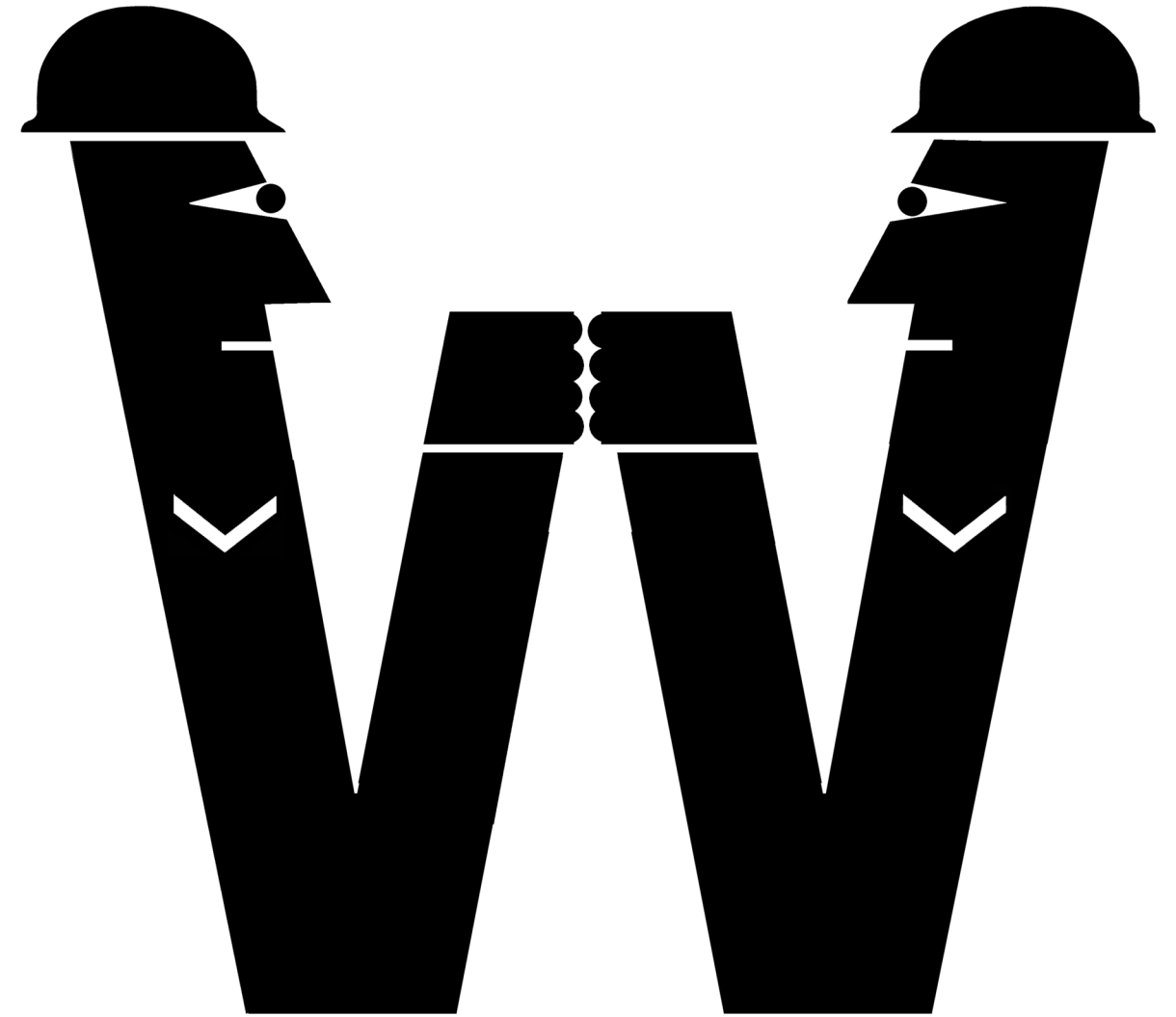
Annihilation

### **MISTAKEN MYTH**

Yellow Bird performed the Ghost Dance, telling the Lakota that their "ghost shirts" were bulletproof.

### **SCORE CARD**

A Good Indian is a Dead Indian



# Xenophobia

Wars are fought for many reasons: god, tribe, nation, territory, resources. Kings and tyrants raise a righteous call for action. Profiteers and warmongers cheer from the sidelines, wise men provide the rationale for vengeance. Freedom will be mentioned. Remember the Alamo? Weapons of Mass Destruction! Religious prosecution and racial oppression are well reasoned and based in law. The sub-human may be tortured and raped. Atrocities of ethnic cleansing and extermination are made real. Holocausts happen. The scape goat has it coming.

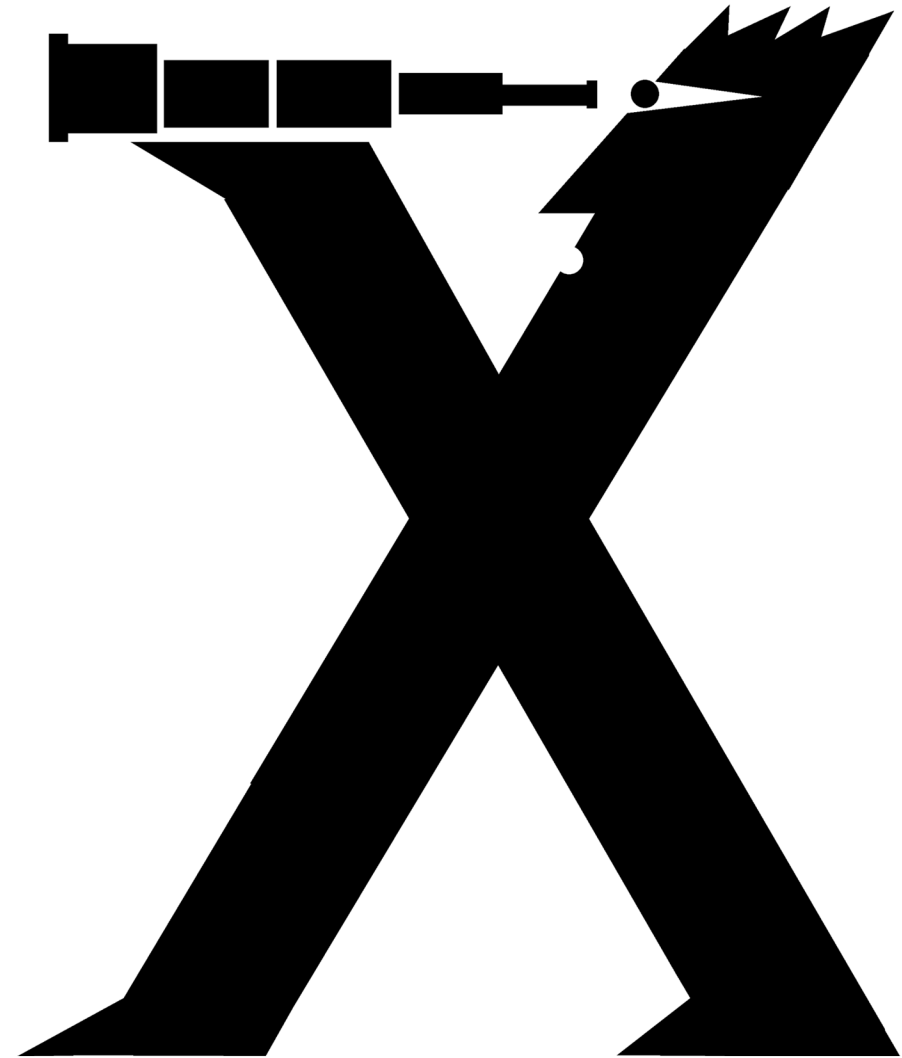
Who doesn't respond well to a good ass-kicking?

XXX

## TIMELESS

### HATE LIST

Beaner, Bog-trotter, Bo-hunk, Camel Jockey, Chink, Coon, Cracker, Dago, Frog, Gook, Gringo, Guido, Kaffir, Jap, Jigaboo, Kraut, Polack, Peckerwood, Redskin, Spade, Towel-head, Spic,



## Yugoslavia

A benevolent dictator died. An ethnic quilt of a country unraveled. Injured parties of various religious, racial and ethnic identity were free to air their grievances. Innocents were murdered and kidnapped, their homes burned and organs hijacked. Thousands of women were held in rape camps for months. Ten-year old children fought in the army. A coalition of 15 nations saw it necessary to intervene, and graciously dropped bombs on besieged civilians, flattened the Chinese embassy, delivered precision-guided nightmares. Hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Yowsa.

1991 - 2001

### **BELLIGERENTS**

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, USA, NATO

### **STAKES**

Balkanization

### **OUTCOME**

140,000 dead

### **INNOVATION IN CARNAGE**

The "smart" bomb!

### **ENDURING EUPHEMISM**

Humanitarian Intervention

### **BRANDING**

Operation Noble Anvil



## Zanzibar

The wrong guy seized power. The Crown, displeased, issued an ultimatum demanding he leave the palace. Gunships entered the harbor. Zanzibar forces were armed with guns and cannons that had been given as diplomatic gifts to the former Sultan. “We have no intention of hauling down our flag and we do not believe you would open fire on us,” said the Zanzibaris. “Unless you do as you are told, we shall certainly do so,” replied the Empire. The order to begin bombarding was given. Within minutes the palace was in smithereens, the royal yacht sunk, the flag shot down.

Zanzibarian casualties: 500. British: 0.

The war lasted 38 minutes.

Zany.

1896

### **BELLIGERENTS**

UK vs. Zanzibar Sultanate  
Europe vs. Africa

### **STAKES**

Imperial compliance, due deference

### **OUTCOME**

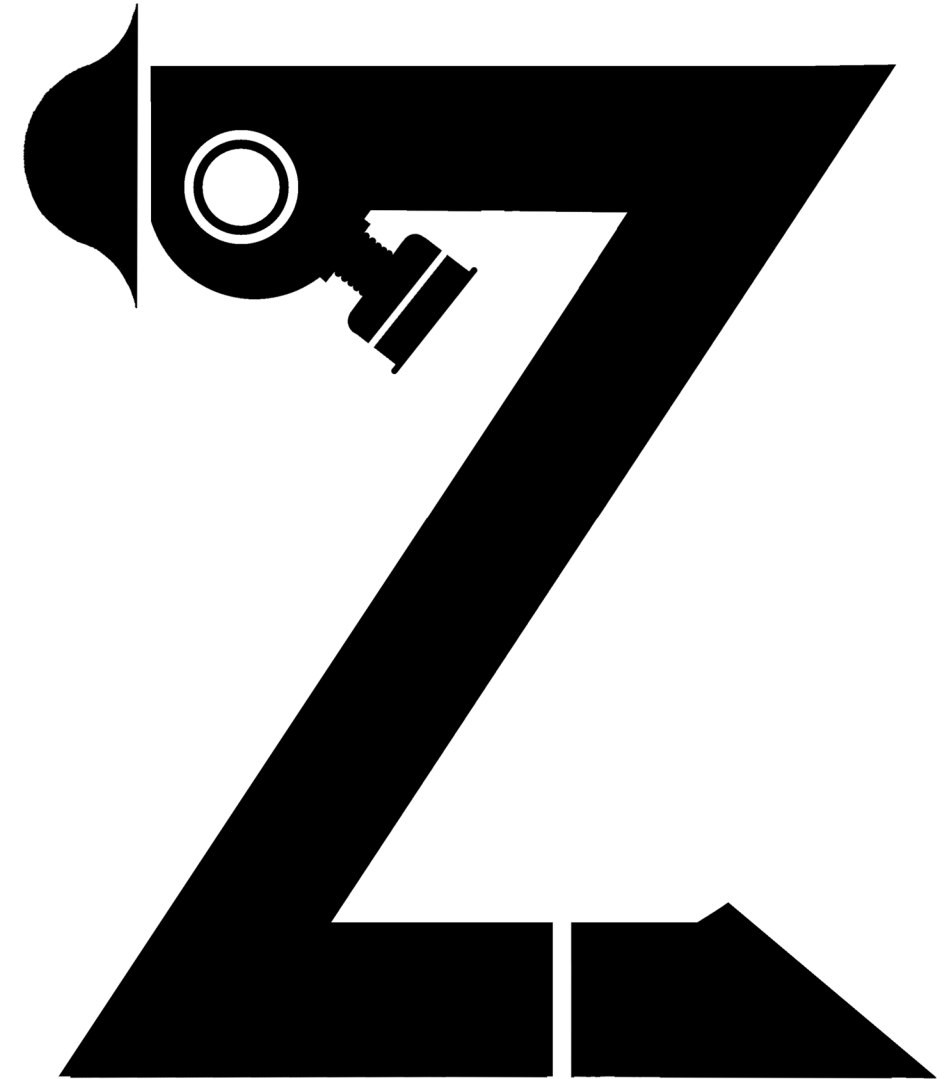
Smoldering, shell-shocked natives

### **INSULT TO INJURY**

The Brits billed the vanquished colonials for the damage caused by the hostilities.

### **MORAL**

Know your place; Might makes Right



## A Note on the Alphabet

This book uses the NATO phonetic alphabet. It was developed by the military to enable better understanding of voice messages in radio and telephone communication, especially when language barriers or poor transmission quality are an issue.

It is also known as a spelling alphabet, and employs *acrophony*, the naming of a letter with a word that begins with the letter itself. Greek letter names are acrophonic: *alpha*, *beta*, *gamma*, *delta*.

## YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY

The British Navy's charming phonetic alphabet from 1914:

*Apples*  
*Butter*  
*Charlie*  
*Duff*  
*Edward*  
*Freddy*  
*George*  
*Harry*  
*Ink*  
*Johnnie*  
*King*  
*London*  
*Monkey*  
*Nuts*  
*Orange*  
*Pudding*  
*Queenie*  
*Robert*  
*Sugar*  
*Tommy*  
*Uncle*  
*Vinegar*  
*Willie*  
*Xerxes*  
*Yellow*  
*Zebra*

WHISKEY  
TANGO  
FOXTROT

## A Note on the Book

David McIlmans wrote and illustrated three children's books: *Big Turtle*, *Gone Fishing*, and *Gone Wild*, an alphabet book of endangered species that received a Caldecot award.

*Alpha Bravo* is a military alphabet book that David began before he died. He made the drawings and was collecting material to write accompanying commentary. Based on his notes, and on conversations I had with him, I have written an alphabetical list of the Greatest Hits of man's inhumanity to man, annotated with "facts" most foul. I miss David and hope he looks kindly on this transcendental collaboration.

— Michael Duffy

WAR IS  
PEACE



