

Deadliest Soldiers In History



The Deadliest Soldiers in History: A Legacy of Brutality and Skill

The clash of steel, the roar of cannons, the screams of the dying – warfare has shaped human history, leaving behind a legacy etched in blood and bone. But beyond the sheer scale of conflict, certain soldiers have carved a reputation for unparalleled lethality, their names whispered with a mixture of awe and terror. This post delves into the history of some of the deadliest soldiers ever recorded, examining not just their battlefield prowess but the contributing factors that forged their terrifying reputation. We'll explore their tactics, weaponry, and the socio-political contexts that fueled their effectiveness, offering a nuanced understanding of what made these fighting forces so deadly.

H2: The Mongol Horse Archers: Masters of Mobility and Range

The Mongol armies, under the leadership of Genghis Khan and his successors, stand as a testament to the devastating power of combined arms and superior mobility. Their mastery of the horse archer technique allowed them to rain down arrows from a distance, overwhelming their opponents with a relentless hail of projectiles.

H3: The Mongol Advantage: Superior Tactics and Logistics

Their effectiveness stemmed not solely from their individual skill but also from sophisticated military organization. The Mongols utilized effective scouting and communication networks, allowing them to rapidly reposition their forces and exploit enemy weaknesses. Their logistical prowess, fueled by a

mastery of supply chains and efficient resource management, enabled them to sustain long campaigns across vast distances. This logistical superiority allowed them to sustain campaigns across vast distances, unlike many of their contemporaries.

H2: The Roman Legionaries: Discipline and Unwavering Loyalty

For centuries, the Roman legions dominated the Mediterranean world, their disciplined ranks and unwavering loyalty making them a formidable fighting force. Their highly structured organization, standardized training, and advanced weaponry, such as the gladius (short sword) and pilum (javelin), gave them a decisive advantage in close-quarters combat.

H3: Roman Military Superiority: Training, Equipment, and Infrastructure

The Roman military machine was a well-oiled machine of unparalleled efficiency. Years of rigorous training instilled in legionaries unwavering discipline and battlefield proficiency. Their standardized equipment ensured a uniform level of effectiveness across the army, and their strategic road network facilitated rapid deployment and logistical support.

H2: The Samurai: Bushido and the Art of War

The Japanese Samurai, bound by the strict code of Bushido, represented a unique blend of warrior culture and martial arts mastery. Their skill with the katana (sword), yumi (bow), and naginata (halberd) was legendary, but their effectiveness also stemmed from their unwavering loyalty to their daimyo (feudal lords) and mastery of strategic warfare.

H3: Bushido's Influence: Honor, Loyalty, and Deadly Effectiveness

The code of Bushido instilled a sense of honor and unwavering loyalty that fueled their ferocity on the battlefield. It was a code that promoted self-sacrifice, discipline, and a relentless pursuit of victory, even in the face of overwhelming odds. This mindset, combined with their martial arts skills, created some of the most fearsome warriors in history.

H2: The Gurkhas: The Fiercest Fighters of the Himalayas

Hailing from the mountainous regions of Nepal, the Gurkha soldiers are renowned for their exceptional courage, close-combat skills, and unwavering loyalty to the British Army (and their own nation). Their kukri, a curved knife, has become a symbol of their brutal effectiveness in close-quarters combat.

H3: Gurkha Fighting Style: Adaptability and Ruthless Efficiency

Gurkhas are known for their adaptability to different terrains and their relentless pursuit of their objectives. The kukri, while formidable in close combat, isn't just a weapon; it's a tool reflecting their resourcefulness. Their ability to navigate challenging terrains and their unwavering fighting spirit has made them a highly effective fighting force for many years.

H2: Modern Special Forces: Technology and Elite Training

In the modern era, elite special forces units from around the world represent the pinnacle of military training and technology. Units like the US Navy SEALs, the British SAS, and the Russian Spetsnaz possess advanced weaponry, cutting-edge technology, and unparalleled tactical expertise, making them some of the deadliest soldiers in existence.

H3: The Evolution of Warfare: Technology's Impact on Lethality

The evolution of warfare has drastically increased the lethality of modern soldiers. Advanced weaponry, sophisticated surveillance technology, and specialized training allows these units to operate with precision and effectiveness that would have been unimaginable centuries ago.

Conclusion:

The deadliest soldiers in history aren't simply defined by brute strength or the number of kills. They represent a culmination of factors including advanced weaponry, effective tactics, rigorous training, unwavering loyalty, and, often, a cultural context that fostered a relentless fighting spirit. From the Mongol horse archers to modern special forces, these soldiers' legacies serve as a stark reminder of the human capacity for both violence and extraordinary discipline.

FAQs:

1. Were all soldiers from these groups equally deadly? No, individual skill and experience varied greatly within each group. The descriptions highlight the overall effectiveness of the units.
2. What ethical considerations arise when discussing "deadliest soldiers"? It's crucial to acknowledge the human cost of war and avoid glorifying violence. This post aims to analyze historical effectiveness, not to celebrate bloodshed.
3. How does technology affect the lethality of modern soldiers compared to historical armies? Technology exponentially increases lethality, providing superior weaponry, surveillance, and communication capabilities.
4. Can we compare the effectiveness of soldiers across vastly different eras and contexts? Direct comparisons are challenging due to differing weaponry, tactics, and environmental factors. However, analyzing their respective impact within their historical contexts offers valuable insights.

5. Are there any other groups of soldiers who deserve mention as being among the deadliest in history? Many other groups, including the Spartans, Vikings, and various medieval knights, could also be considered among history's deadliest soldiers, depending on the criteria used for assessment. Each possessed unique attributes contributing to their battlefield effectiveness.

deadliest soldiers in history: *The White Sniper* Tapio A. M. Saarelainen, 2016-10-31 The remarkable story of the Finnish marksman nicknamed "White Death" by the Red Army for his record number of confirmed kills. Simo Häyhä is the most famous sniper in the world. During the Winter War fought between Russia and Finland from 1939 to 1940, he had 542 confirmed kills with iron sights, a record that still stands today. A man of action who spoke very little, Simo Häyhä was hugely respected by his men and his superiors and given many difficult missions, including taking out specific targets. Able to move silently and swiftly through the landscape, melting into the snowbound surroundings in his white camouflage fatigues, his aim was deadly and his quarry rarely escaped. The Russians learned of his reputation as a marksman and tried several times to kill him by indirect fire. He was promoted from corporal to second lieutenant, and he was awarded the Cross of Kollaa. For sniping, Simo Häyhä only ever used his own M/28-30 rifle. Eventually, his luck ran out, and Simo received a serious head wound on March 6, 1940, though he subsequently recovered. *The White Sniper* fully explores Simo Häyhä's life, his exploits in the Winter War, the secrets behind his success, including character and technique, and also includes a detailed look at his rifle itself. There are appendices on the basics of shooting, the impact of fire on the battlefield, battles on the Kollaa Front during the Winter War, and a list of ranked snipers of the world. "No matter how many books on sniping you have read, this must be added to your list if you are serious about shooting."
—GunMart

deadliest soldiers in history: *American Sniper* Chris Kyle, Scott McEwen, Jim DeFelice, 2012-01-03 The #1 New York Times bestselling memoir of U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, and the source for Clint Eastwood's blockbuster, Academy-Award nominated movie. "An amazingly detailed account of fighting in Iraq—a humanizing, brave story that's extremely readable." —PATRICIA CORNWELL, New York Times Book Review Jaw-dropping...Undeniably riveting. —RICHARD ROEPER, Chicago Sun-Times From 1999 to 2009, U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle recorded the most career sniper kills in United States military history. His fellow American warriors, whom he protected with deadly precision from rooftops and stealth positions during the Iraq War, called him "The Legend"; meanwhile, the enemy feared him so much they named him al-Shaitan ("the devil") and placed a bounty on his head. Kyle, who was tragically killed in 2013, writes honestly about the pain of war—including the deaths of two close SEAL teammates—and in moving first-person passages throughout, his wife, Taya, speaks openly about the strains of war on their family, as well as on Chris. Gripping and unforgettable, Kyle's masterful account of his extraordinary battlefield experiences ranks as one of the great war memoirs of all time.

deadliest soldiers in history: *Navy SEALs* Don Mann, Lance Burton, 2019-06-25 New York Times bestselling author Don Mann and Lance Burton tell the history of the most respected and feared fighting force ever created—The US Navy SEALs. "For those brave souls—past, present, and future—and those who wish to honor them—their story is in the pages that follow." From their birth in World War II as combat swimmers clearing the beaches of Normandy to their evolution into fighting men who could operate anywhere in the world by sea, air, or land, the intrepid story of the US Navy SEALs is one of courage, sacrifice, and world-renowned toughness that echoes of other great military units of history—the Spartans, the Roman legions, or the samurai. Take a look inside to find out what makes the SEALs America's deadliest warriors. This is a narrative history; stories based on either direct experiences or exhaustive research. Mann and Burton take the reader through the inception of the Naval Combat Demolition Teams (NCDU) and Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT) during World War II, their testing and development in Korea and into the Vietnam War, where the SEALs truly laid the groundwork for their legendary status, and on into the present

day. The authors highlight the major steps and operations along the way, discuss the training and what it takes, and explore some of the most important moments in SEAL history.

deadliest soldiers in history: *Carnivore* Dillard Johnson, James Tarr, 2014-07-08 Amid ferocious fighting that many times nearly took his life, Sergeant First Class Dillard C. J. Johnson—one of the most decorated soldiers in the history of the legendary 3rd Infantry Division—and his crew are recognized by Pentagon reports to have accounted for astonishing enemy KIA totals while battling inside and out of the *Carnivore*, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Johnson commanded during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After miraculously beating stage-three cancer, he returned to his platoon in Baghdad for a second combat tour, often serving as a designated marksman protecting his fellow troops. Today, Johnson and his men's story of spearheading OIF is the stuff of legend—earning them a cover story in *Soldier of Fortune* and a display in the Fort Stewart Museum. But only now is Johnson telling his full story: reviewed and approved for publication by the Department of Defense, *Carnivore* is the gripping and unflinchingly honest autobiography of a remarkable American warrior, as well as a tribute to the men and women with whom he served.

deadliest soldiers in history: *The Malmedy Massacre* Steven P. Remy, 2017-03-14 During the Battle of the Bulge, Waffen SS soldiers shot 84 American prisoners near the Belgian town of Malmedy—the deadliest mass execution of U.S. soldiers during World War II. The bloody deeds of December 17, 1944, produced the most controversial war crimes trial in American history. Drawing on newly declassified documents, Steven Remy revisits the massacre—and the decade-long controversy that followed—to set the record straight. After the war, the U.S. Army tracked down 74 of the SS men involved in the massacre and other atrocities and put them on trial at Dachau. All the defendants were convicted and sentenced to death or life imprisonment. Over the following decade, however, a network of Germans and sympathetic Americans succeeded in discrediting the trial. They claimed that interrogators—some of them Jewish émigrés—had coerced false confessions and that heat of battle conditions, rather than superiors' orders, had led to the shooting. They insisted that vengeance, not justice, was the prosecution's true objective. The controversy generated by these accusations, leveled just as the United States was anxious to placate its West German ally, resulted in the release of all the convicted men by 1957. The Malmedy Massacre shows that the torture accusations were untrue, and the massacre was no accident but was typical of the Waffen SS's brutal fighting style. Remy reveals in unprecedented depth how German and American amnesty advocates warped our understanding of one of the war's most infamous crimes through a systematic campaign of fabrications and distortions.

deadliest soldiers in history: America's Deadliest Battle Robert H. Ferrell, 2007
Preparation -- The plan -- First days -- The 35th Division -- Ending the enfilade -- The Kriemhilde Stellung -- Reorganization -- Breakout -- Victory.

deadliest soldiers in history: Nature's Civil War Kathryn Shively Meier, 2013-11-11 In the Shenandoah Valley and Peninsula Campaigns of 1862, Union and Confederate soldiers faced unfamiliar and harsh environmental conditions--strange terrain, tainted water, swarms of flies and mosquitoes, interminable rain and snow storms, and oppressive

deadliest soldiers in history: The Most Dangerous Man in America Mark Perry, 2014-04-01 At times, even his admirers seemed unsure of what to do with General Douglas MacArthur. Imperious, headstrong, and vain, MacArthur matched an undeniable military genius with a massive ego and a rebellious streak that often seemed to destine him for the dustbin of history. Yet despite his flaws, MacArthur is remembered as a brilliant commander whose combined-arms operation in the Pacific -- the first in the history of warfare -- secured America's triumph in World War II and changed the course of history. In *The Most Dangerous Man in America*, celebrated historian Mark Perry examines how this paradox of a man overcame personal and professional challenges to lead his countrymen in their darkest hour. As Perry shows, Franklin Roosevelt and a handful of MacArthur's subordinates made this feat possible, taming MacArthur, making him useful, and finally making him victorious. A gripping, authoritative biography of the Pacific Theater's most

celebrated and misunderstood commander, *The Most Dangerous Man in America* reveals the secrets of Douglas MacArthur's success -- and the incredible efforts of the men who made it possible.

deadliest soldiers in history: *Sheer Misery* Mary Louise Roberts, 2021-04-20 The senses -- The dirty body -- The foot -- The wound -- The corpse.

deadliest soldiers in history: *Jack Hinson's One-Man War* Tom McKenney, 2010-09-23 The true story of one man's reluctant but relentless war against the invaders of his country. A quiet, wealthy plantation owner, Jack Hinson watched the start of the Civil War with disinterest. Opposed to secession and a friend to Union and Confederate commanders alike, he did not want a war. After Union soldiers seized and murdered his sons, placing their decapitated heads on the gateposts of his estate, Hinson could remain indifferent no longer. He commissioned a special rifle for long-range accuracy, he took to the woods, and he set out for revenge. This remarkable biography presents the story of Jack Hinson, a lone Confederate sniper who, at the age of 57, waged a personal war on Grant's army and navy. The result of 15 years of scholarship, this meticulously researched and beautifully written work is the only account of Hinson's life ever recorded and involves an unbelievable cast of characters, including the Earp brothers, Jesse James, and Nathan Bedford Forrest.

deadliest soldiers in history: The Harlem Hellfighters Max Brooks, 2014-04-01 From bestselling author Max Brooks, the riveting story of the highly decorated, barrier-breaking, historic black regiment—the Harlem Hellfighters In 1919, the 369th infantry regiment marched home triumphantly from World War I. They had spent more time in combat than any other American unit, never losing a foot of ground to the enemy, or a man to capture, and winning countless decorations. Though they returned as heroes, this African American unit faced tremendous discrimination, even from their own government. The Harlem Hellfighters, as the Germans called them, fought courageously on—and off—the battlefield to make Europe, and America, safe for democracy. In *THE HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS*, bestselling author Max Brooks and acclaimed illustrator Caanan White bring this history to life. From the enlistment lines in Harlem to the training camp at Spartanburg, South Carolina, to the trenches in France, they tell the heroic story of the 369th in an action-packed and powerful tale of honor and heart.

deadliest soldiers in history: *More Deadly Than War* Kenneth C. Davis, 2018-05-15 A Washington Post Best Children's Book of the Month, *More Deadly Than War* from New York Times bestselling author Kenneth C. Davis explores the hidden history of the Spanish influenza pandemic during World War I. 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the worst disease outbreak in modern times: the Spanish flu, a story even more relevant today. This dramatic narrative, told through the stories and voices of the people caught in the deadly maelstrom, explores how this vast, global epidemic was intertwined with the horrors of World War I—and how it could happen again. Complete with photographs, period documents, modern research, and firsthand reports by medical professionals and survivors, *More Deadly Than War* provides captivating insight into a catastrophe that transformed America in the early twentieth century. A Junior Library Guild Selection! "An important history—and an important reminder that we could very well face such a threat again."—Deborah Blum, New York Times bestselling author of *The Poison Guide: One Chemist's Single-Minded Crusade for Food Safety at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* "In an age of Ebola and Zika, this vivid account is a cautionary tale that will have you rushing to wash your hands for protection."—Karen Blumenthal, award-winning author of *Jane Against the World: Roe v. Wade and the Fight for Reproductive Rights*

deadliest soldiers in history: *Stone Cold* Andrew Faulkner, 2016-02-01 'If I'd have been a Vietcong you'd be dead.' - Len Opie 'Len was a soldier above soldiers.' - Keith Payne VC Through three wars across 30 years, Len Opie carved a reputation as one of the country's greatest infantrymen. A cold-eyed killer who drank nothing stronger than weak tea, he fought with his bare hands, a sharpened shovel and piano wire. He was a larrikin who went by the book, unless the book was wrong. He set his own bar high and expected others to do the same. *Stone Cold* is the extraordinary story of one of Australia's most fearless fighters. It takes us into the jungles of New

Guinea and Borneo and some of the fiercest battles of World War II. It goes to the cold heart of Korea, where Len emerged from the ranks to excel in the epic Battle of Kapyong and play a key role at the Battle of Maryang San. And it drops us into the centre of the American counterinsurgency war in Vietnam with Len's involvement in the CIA's shadowy black ops program, Phoenix. Action-packed and surprising, *Stone Cold* gives rich life to a warrior soldier and one of Australia's greatest diggers.

deadliest soldiers in history: *Death in the Ardennes* Jean-Michel Steg, 2021-10-29 27,000 French people were killed on 22nd August 1914, the bloodiest day in French history.

deadliest soldiers in history: *The Face Of Battle* John Keegan, 2011-08-31 The Face of Battle is military history from the battlefield: an imperishable account of the direct experience of individuals at 'the point of maximum danger'. It examines the physical conditions of fighting, the particular emotions and behaviour generated by battle, as well as the motives that impel soldiers to stand and fight rather than run away. In this stunningly vivid reassessment of three battles, John Keegan conveys their reality for the participants, whether facing the arrow cloud of Agincourt, the levelled muskets of Waterloo or the steel rain of the Somme.

deadliest soldiers in history: *American Gun* Chris Kyle, William Doyle, 2013-06-04 THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING FOLLOW-UP TO AMERICAN SNIPER Join Chris Kyle on a journey to discover "how 10 firearms changed United States history" (New York Times Book Review) Drawing on his legendary firearms knowledge and combat experience, U.S. Navy SEAL and #1 bestselling author of American Sniper Chris Kyle dramatically chronicles the story of America—from the Revolution to the present—through the lens of ten iconic guns and the remarkable heroes who used them to shape history: the American long rifle, Spencer repeater, Colt .45 revolver, Winchester 1873 rifle, Springfield M1903 rifle, M1911 pistol, Thompson submachine gun, M1 Garand, .38 Special police revolver, and the M16 rifle platform Kyle himself used. *American Gun* is a sweeping epic of bravery, adventure, invention, and sacrifice. Featuring a foreword and afterword by Taya Kyle and illustrated with more than 100 photographs, this new paperback edition features a bonus chapter, "The Eleventh Gun," on shotguns, derringers, and the Browning M2 machine gun.

deadliest soldiers in history: *Arnhem* Antony Beevor, 2018-05-17 THE SUNDAY TIMES #1 BESTSELLER The great airborne battle for the bridges in 1944 by Britain's Number One bestselling historian and author of the classic Stalingrad 'Our greatest chronicler of the Second World War' - Robert Fox, Evening Standard _____ On 17 September 1944, General Kurt Student, the founder of Nazi Germany's parachute forces, heard the growing roar of aeroplane engines. He went out on to his balcony above the flat landscape of southern Holland to watch the air armada of Dakotas and gliders carrying the British 1st Airborne and the American 101st and 82nd Airborne divisions. He gazed up in envy at this massive demonstration of paratroop power. Operation Market Garden, the plan to end the war by capturing the bridges leading to the Lower Rhine and beyond, was a bold concept: the Americans thought it unusually bold for Field Marshal Montgomery. But could it ever have worked? The cost of failure was horrendous, above all for the Dutch, who risked everything to help. German reprisals were pitiless and cruel, and lasted until the end of the war. The British fascination with heroic failure has clouded the story of Arnhem in myths. Antony Beevor, using often overlooked sources from Dutch, British, American, Polish and German archives, has reconstructed the terrible reality of the fighting, which General Student himself called 'The Last German Victory'. Yet this book, written in Beevor's inimitable and gripping narrative style, is about much more than a single, dramatic battle. It looks into the very heart of war. _____ 'In Beevor's hands, Arnhem becomes a study of national character' - Ben Macintyre, The Times 'Superb book, tirelessly researched and beautifully written' - Saul David, Daily Telegraph 'Complete mastery of both the story and the sources' - Keith Lowe, Literary Review

deadliest soldiers in history: *The Mosquito* Timothy C. Winegard, 2019-08-06 **The instant New York Times bestseller.** *An international bestseller.* Finalist for the Lane Anderson Award Finalist for the RBC Taylor Award "Hugely impressive, a major work."—NPR A pioneering and groundbreaking work of narrative nonfiction that offers a dramatic new perspective on the history of humankind, showing how through millennia, the mosquito has been the single most powerful force

in determining humanity's fate Why was gin and tonic the cocktail of choice for British colonists in India and Africa? What does Starbucks have to thank for its global domination? What has protected the lives of popes for millennia? Why did Scotland surrender its sovereignty to England? What was George Washington's secret weapon during the American Revolution? The answer to all these questions, and many more, is the mosquito. Across our planet since the dawn of humankind, this nefarious pest, roughly the size and weight of a grape seed, has been at the frontlines of history as the grim reaper, the harvester of human populations, and the ultimate agent of historical change. As the mosquito transformed the landscapes of civilization, humans were unwittingly required to respond to its piercing impact and universal projection of power. The mosquito has determined the fates of empires and nations, razed and crippled economies, and decided the outcome of pivotal wars, killing nearly half of humanity along the way. She (only females bite) has dispatched an estimated 52 billion people from a total of 108 billion throughout our relatively brief existence. As the greatest purveyor of extermination we have ever known, she has played a greater role in shaping our human story than any other living thing with which we share our global village. Imagine for a moment a world without deadly mosquitoes, or any mosquitoes, for that matter? Our history and the world we know, or think we know, would be completely unrecognizable. Driven by surprising insights and fast-paced storytelling, *The Mosquito* is the extraordinary untold story of the mosquito's reign through human history and her indelible impact on our modern world order.

deadliest soldiers in history: *Disease, War, and the Imperial State* Erica Charters, 2014-11-03 The Seven Years' War, often called the first global war, spanned North America, the West Indies, Europe, and India. The author demonstrates how disease played a vital role in shaping strategy and campaigning, British state policy, and imperial relations during the Seven Years' War.

deadliest soldiers in history: *The Second World War* Antony Beevor, 2012-06-05 A masterful and comprehensive chronicle of World War II, by internationally bestselling historian Antony Beevor. Over the past two decades, Antony Beevor has established himself as one of the world's premier historians of WWII. His multi-award winning books have included *Stalingrad* and *The Fall of Berlin 1945*. Now, in his newest and most ambitious book, he turns his focus to one of the bloodiest and most tragic events of the twentieth century, the Second World War. In this searing narrative that takes us from Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1st, 1939 to V-J day on August 14, 1945 and the war's aftermath, Beevor describes the conflict and its global reach -- one that included every major power. The result is a dramatic and breathtaking single-volume history that provides a remarkably intimate account of the war that, more than any other, still commands attention and an audience. Thrillingly written and brilliantly researched, Beevor's grand and provocative account is destined to become the definitive work on this complex, tragic, and endlessly fascinating period in world history, and confirms once more that he is a military historian of the first rank.

deadliest soldiers in history: *The Hardest Place* Wesley Morgan, 2021-03-09 "One of the most important books to come out of the Afghanistan war."—*Foreign Policy* "A saga of courage and futility, of valor and error and heartbreak."—Rick Atkinson, author of the *Liberation Trilogy* and *The British Are Coming* Of the many battlefields on which U.S. troops and intelligence operatives fought in Afghanistan, one remote corner of the country stands as a microcosm of the American campaign: the Pech and its tributary valleys in Kunar and Nuristan. The area's rugged, steep terrain and thick forests made it a natural hiding spot for local insurgents and international terrorists alike, and it came to represent both the valor and futility of America's two-decade-long Afghan war. Drawing on reporting trips, hundreds of interviews, and documentary research, Wesley Morgan reveals the history of the war in this iconic region, captures the culture and reality of the conflict through both American and Afghan eyes, and reports on the snowballing missteps—some kept secret from even the troops fighting there—that doomed the American mission. *The Hardest Place* is the story of one of the twenty-first century's most unforgiving battlefields and a portrait of the American military that fought there.

deadliest soldiers in history: *Apollo's Warriors* Michael E. Haas, 1998-05 Presenting a

fascinating insider's view of U.S.A.F. special operations, this volume brings to life the critical contributions these forces have made to the exercise of air & space power. Focusing in particular on the period between the Korean War & the Indochina wars of 1950-1979, the accounts of numerous missions are profusely illustrated with photos & maps. Includes a discussion of AF operations in Europe during WWII, as well as profiles of Air Commandos who performed above & beyond the call of duty. Reflects on the need for financial & political support for restoration of the forces. Bibliography. Extensive photos & maps. Charts & tables.

deadliest soldiers in history: Stalingrad 1942 Peter Antill, 2007-06-19 Stalingrad has become a by-word for grim endurance and tenacity; for the refusal to give up, no matter the cost. In this book, Peter Antill takes a dispassionate look at one of the most talked about battles in history. He asks why the Germans allowed themselves to be diverted from their main objective, which was to capture the oil fields of the Caucasus, and concentrate such large resources on a secondary target. He discusses the merits of the commanders on both sides and also the relationship on the German side with Hitler as well as reviewing the ways in which the command structures influenced the battle. Apart from the overall question of German objectives, this book also unpicks the detail of unit directions, priorities and deployments, leading to a vivid account of the day-by-day war of attrition that took place in Stalingrad during World War II (1939-1945), between September 14, 1942 and February 2, 1943. Stalingrad was more than a turning point, it was the anvil on which the back of German military ambitions in the east were broken and the echoes of its death knell were heard in Berlin and indeed the world over.

deadliest soldiers in history: War as I Knew it George Smith Patton, 1995 The personal and candid account of General Patton's celebrated, relentless crusade across western Europe during World War II First published in 1947, *War as I Knew It* is an absorbing narrative that draws from Patton's vivid memories of battle and his detailed diaries, covering the moment the Third Army exploded onto the Brittany Peninsula to the final Allied casualty report. The result is not only a grueling, human account of daily combat and heroic feats--including a riveting look at the Battle of the Bulge--but a valuable chronicle by one of the most brilliant military strategists in history. Patton's letters from earlier military campaigns in North Africa and Sicily, complemented by a powerful retrospective of his guiding philosophies, further reveal a man of uncompromising will and uncommon character, which made Georgie a household name in mid-century America.

deadliest soldiers in history: The Deadliest Weapon Ian Carter, 2013-01-21 Struggling with his identity as an Army officer, Captain Peter Fleming returns to Vietnam to prove something to himself. After taking command of his new unit he quickly finds himself immersed in a deadly intelligence chess match with a masterful Viet Cong adversary. Actionpacked, this military thriller gives the inside perspective, never before told, of how ELINT- Electronic Intelligence was used leading up to TET, the major battle of the Vietnam War. In the secretive world of the Army Security Agency, Fleming and his crack team devise a new method for interpreting intelligence. Fleming and his Viet Cong counterpart lead their units in an epic life and death struggle. This cat and mouse saga takes one unexpected turn after another as each side fights to outwit the other. Fleming and his fellow American soldiers had to not only fight the enemy but also the incompetence and meddling by senior Washington politicians and the disgraceful propaganda of a liberal press, supported by dissidents, who made it appear the war was lost. Fleming understands the Vietnam War is a military victory, won by combat troops, on the ground, spilling their own blood. He is conflicted and questions what this victory means to the heroic men and women who tried to survive this war with honor. History, Espionage, Intrigue, Adventure, Suspense - *The Deadliest Weapon* has it all.

deadliest soldiers in history: Gates Of Fire Steven Pressfield, 2010-02-23 In the Sunday Times bestseller *Gates of Fire*, Steven Pressfield tells the breathtaking story of the legendary Spartans: the men and women who helped shaped our history and have themselves become as immortal as their gods. 'Breathtakingly brilliant . . . this is a work of rare genius. Savour it!' DAVID GEMMELL 'A tale worthy of Homer, a timeless epic of man and war, exquisitely researched and boldly written. Pressfield has created a new classic' STEPHEN COONTS 'A really impressive book -

imaginatively framed, historically detailed and a really gripping narrative' ***** Reader review 'Beautifully written and a great joy to read' ***** Reader review ***** Go tell the Spartans, stranger passing by, That here, obedient to their laws, we lie. 480 BC: At a bleak pass in a far-flung corner of eastern Greece, three hundred Spartan warriors faced the army of King Xerxes of Persia, a massive force rumoured to be over a million strong. Their orders were simple: to delay the enemy for as long as possible in order to buy time for the main Greek armies to mobilize. For six days the Spartans held the invaders at bay. In the final hours - their shields broken, swords and spears shattered - they fought with their bare hands before being overwhelmed . . . It was battle that would become synonymous with extraordinary courage, heroism and self-sacrifice. It was a battle called Thermopylae.

deadliest soldiers in history: Arredondo Bradley Folsom, 2017-03-10 In this biography of Joaquín de Arredondo, historian Bradley Folsom brings to life one of the most influential and ruthless leaders in North American history. Arredondo (1776–1837), a Bourbon loyalist who governed Texas and the other interior provinces of northeastern New Spain during the Mexican War of Independence, contended with attacks by revolutionaries, U.S. citizens, generals who had served in Napoleon's army, pirates, and various American Indian groups, all attempting to wrest control of the region. Often resorting to violence to deal with the provinces' problems, Arredondo was for ten years the most powerful official in northeastern New Spain. Folsom's lively account shows the challenges of governing a vast and inhospitable region and provides insight into nineteenth-century military tactics and Spanish viceregal realpolitik. When Arredondo and his army—which included Arredondo's protégé, future president of Mexico Antonio López de Santa Anna—arrived in Nuevo Santander in 1811, they quickly suppressed a revolutionary upheaval. Arredondo went on to expel an army of revolutionaries and invaders from the United States who had taken over Texas and declared it an independent republic. In the Battle of Medina, the bloodiest battle ever fought in Texas, he crushed the insurgents and followed his victory with a purge that reduced Texas's population by half. Over the following eight years, Arredondo faced fresh challenges to Spanish sovereignty ranging from Comanche and Apache raids to continued American incursion. In response, Arredondo ignored his superiors and ordered his soldiers to terrorize those who disagreed with him. Arredondo's actions had dramatic repercussions in Texas, Mexico, and the United States. His decision to allow Moses Austin to colonize Texas with Americans would culminate in the defeat of Santa Anna in 1836, but not before Santa Anna had made good use of the lessons in brutality he had learned so well from his mentor.

deadliest soldiers in history: A Contemporary History of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Mary T. Sarnecky, 2010-04-27 This book focuses on an organization, the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, which the author has been privileged to be affiliated with - in one way or another - for the greatest part of her adult life. As an active duty officer, the author had first-hand knowledge about the Army Nurse Corps inner workings and spent the last years of her Army career (from 1992) researching and writing the Corps history. One of her goals in researching and writing this history was to intrigue and provide a sense of gratification for the reader. After the conclusion of the Vietnam War, several wide-ranging and significant changes exerted myriad effects on the Army Nurse Corps. The most influential of these phenomena included the dismantling of the Selective Service System, the reorganization of the Army, the launch of the Health Services Command (HSC), the opening of the Academy of Health Sciences, the transformation of the Office of the Army Surgeon General, the inauguration of improvements in the Army Reserve and National Guard, and the evolution in the roles and status of women.

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interior surfaces of tunnels, buildings and other defended structures to reach deep inside a fortification. From its combat debut to its deployment in Vietnam, Chechnya and elsewhere, the flamethrower has proven to be devastatingly effective, not least because of its huge psychological impact on enemy troops. Yet despite this, the weapon and its operators have always been vulnerable, suffering from a very particular set of limitations, all of which are explored here. Featuring expert analysis, first-hand accounts and a startling array of illustrations and photographs, this is the definitive guide to an extraordinary chapter in the history of military technology.

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compared with others, such as George Hennard's shooting rampage at Luby's in Killeen in 1991, Charles Whitman at the University of Texas, and Virginia Tech shooter Seung-Hui Cho. The authors explore the strange paradox that the shooting at Fort Hood was classified as workplace violence rather than a terrorist act. This classification has major implications for the victims of the shooting who have been denied health benefits and compensation.

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one ingenious theory after another. In this stimulating new book, bound to provoke controversy, Peter Krentz argues that Herodotus was right after all. Beginning his analysis with the Athenians' first formal contact with the Persians in 507 BCE, Krentz weaves together ancient evidence with travelers' descriptions, archaeological discoveries, geological surveys, and the experiences of modern reenactors and soldiers to tell his story. Krentz argues that before Marathon the Athenian army fought in a much less organized way than the standard view of the hoplite phalanx suggests: as an irregularly armed mob rather than a disciplined formation of identically equipped infantry. At Marathon the Athenians equipped all their fighters, including archers and horsemen, as hoplites for the first time. Because their equipment weighed only half as much as is usually thought, the Athenians and their Plataean allies could charge almost a mile at a run, as Herodotus says they did. Krentz improves on this account in Herodotus by showing why the Athenians wanted to do such a risky thing.

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