

Military conflicts involving the UK and US, 1945 - 2021

Lest we forget

When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed.

These things must happen... (Mark, 13:7)

The 20th century has been one of the bloodiest centuries in human history, and the 21st century does not promise to be much better. Since the end of the Second World War alone to date (2021), there have been three great wars (taking strategic significance, numbers engaged and losses sustained into account) – Vietnam, Korea and the Chinese Civil War. There have been at least ten other major international wars, and several major colonial or civil wars, let alone many lesser conflicts and undeclared wars. The management of war trauma will continue to be as relevant worldwide in the 21st century as it has ever been.



Figure 1 *Casualty Evacuation from the Green Zone, Helmand Province (detail)*¹

Both the United Kingdom and the United States have been involved in a significantly large number of these conflicts and related operations since the end of the Second World War. It is worth noting that British troops, for instance, have been engaged in over 70 military operations and been on active service overseas every year since 1945, with only two years between 1945 and 2021 seeing no deaths amongst UK combat forces.² With a much larger number of US forces deployed on active duty on

¹ Reproduced by kind permission of military artist David Rowlands, <http://www.davidrowlands.co.uk>

² There were no UK Armed Forces operational deaths in 1968 and 2016. Source: UK armed forces Deaths: Operational deaths post World War II - 3 September 1945 to 28 February 2021. (Table 2) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2-2021> (published 25 March 2021)

operations worldwide, the US not surprisingly has sustained deaths every year, though not always from hostile action.³

Significantly, with a couple of exceptions, every single conflict or major incident involving British service personnel in the 55 years or so between 1945 and the dramatic 9/11 Al-Qaeda attacks on mainland USA was unforeseen, taking the British government of the day by surprise – a salutary lesson to heed in the years to come.

Table 1: Significant UK Operations since the Second World War (US involvement indicated by *) (Excluding: Humanitarian Relief operations (e.g. Response to Hurricanes, Tsunamis, Famine, Flooding or Earthquakes); Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO); UN Ceasefire Observer or mine clearance missions)			
Area, date & official name	Description	Type of conflict (State-on-state or intra-state)	British military casualty toll⁴
Palestine, 1945 – 1948	Counter-insurgency against Jewish separatists	Intra-state	754 deaths
India, 1946 – 1948	Internal security, and withdrawal from Empire	Intra-state	25 deaths
Malaya, 1948 – 1960	Counter-insurgency against Communist rebels	Intra-state	1,442 deaths
Berlin Airlift,* 1948 - 1949	The first major confrontation of the Cold War	State-on-state	25 deaths
Korea,* 1950 – 1953	UN Operations - Korean conflict	State-on-state	1,129 deaths
Canal Zone, 1951 – 1954	Counter-insurgency		405 deaths
Kenya, 1952 – 1956	Mau Mau Rebellion	Intra-state	95 deaths
Cyprus, 1954 – 1959	EOKA Emergency (contesting Cypriot struggle for integration with Greece)	Intra-state	358 deaths
Suez Crisis, 1956 (<i>Op MUSKETEE</i>)	Anglo-French invasion of Canal Zone	State-on-state	24 deaths
Brunei, 8 – 23 Dec 1962	Suppression of communist-inspired insurgency covertly supported by Indonesia	Intra-state	7 deaths
Borneo, 24 December 1962 - 1966	Counter-insurgency campaign against Indonesian incursions into British colonies during the Indonesian – Malaysian Confrontation	Intra-state	140 deaths
Radfan (1964) and South Arabia (Yemen) Campaigns, 1964 – 1967	Internal Security & withdrawal from Empire	Intra-state	Radfan: 13 deaths; South Arabia: 160 deaths

³ Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcass/pages/main.xhtml>

⁴ UK armed forces deaths: post World War II tables; 2021
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2-2021>

Dhofar (Oman), 1969 – 1976	Counter-insurgency aid to Sultanate of Oman	Intra-state	25 deaths
Northern Ireland, 1969 – 2007 (<i>Op BANNER</i>)	Military assistance to the civilian power.	Intra-state	1,441 deaths, including 722 from hostile action
Falklands War, 1982 (<i>Op CORPORATE</i>)	Recapture of Falkland Islands after Argentinian invasion	State-on-state	237 deaths
Kuwait*, 1990 - 1991 (<i>Op GRANBY</i>) (<i>First Gulf War</i>) (US: <i>Operation DESERT SHIELD / DESERT STORM</i>)	Liberation of Kuwait after Iraqi invasion	State-on-state	46 deaths
Former Yugoslavia, 1992 – 1995 (mainly <i>Op HANWOOD</i> , and <i>Op GRAPPLE</i>)	UN Peacekeeping mission	Intra-state	72 deaths (1992 – 2016)
Bosnia, 1995-2004 (<i>Op RESOLUTE</i> , <i>LODESTAR</i> , <i>PALATINE</i> and <i>OCULUS</i>)	British contribution to IFOR and SFOR in Bosnia (primarily conflict-resolution)	Intra-state	
Kosovo, 1999 – 2009 (<i>Op AGRICOLA</i>)	NATO-led peace enforcement mission	Intra-state	
Sierra Leone, 2000 (<i>Op PALLISER</i>)	Decisive British involvement in Sierra Leonean civil war	Intra-state	nil
Sierra Leone, 2000 (<i>Op BARRAS</i>)	Hostage Rescue mission	n/a	One British fatality
Afghanistan* 2001 - 2014 (<i>Various</i> , including: <i>Op VERITAS</i> , <i>FINGAL</i> , <i>DAMIAN</i> , <i>TARROCK</i> ; subsumed into <i>Op HERRICK</i> from October 2004) (US: <i>Operation ENDURING FREEDOM</i>); UK Ops since 2014: 2014 – 8 July 2021: <i>Op TORAL</i> ; August 2021: <i>Op PITTING</i>	Campaign against Al-Qaeda and Taliban; developed into prolonged counter-insurgency campaign	State-on-state and intra-state	453 deaths during <i>Op HERRICK</i> , ⁵ 3 more on <i>Op TORAL</i> in 2015, and one since, making a total of 457 deaths to date in Afghanistan
Iraq*, 2003 - 2009 (<i>Op TELIC</i>) (<i>Second Gulf War</i>) (US: <i>Operation IRAQI FREEDOM</i>)	US-UK Invasion of Iraq & subsequent counter-insurgency	State-on-state and intra-state	179 deaths of British Armed Forces personnel or MOD civilians (including 136 through hostile action)
Libya*, 2011 (<i>Op ELLAMY</i>) (US: <i>Operation ODYSSEY DAWN</i>)	A UN-authorized, NATO-led military intervention (mainly an air campaign), to force Libya to cease attacks on civilians during the Libyan civil war	State-on-state	One British fatality (non-hostile causes)

⁵ Op Herrick casualty and fatality tables: 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/op-herrick-casualty-and-fatality-tables-2015>

Syria & Iraq,* 2014 – 2021 (ongoing) (Op SHADER)	British contribution to coalition war against so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Primarily an intensive air bombing campaign, mounted from RAF Akrotiri	Intra-state conflict with international involvement (ISIL is not an internationally recognised state)	Four deaths (one from hostile action)
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Military conflicts involving the UK since 1945

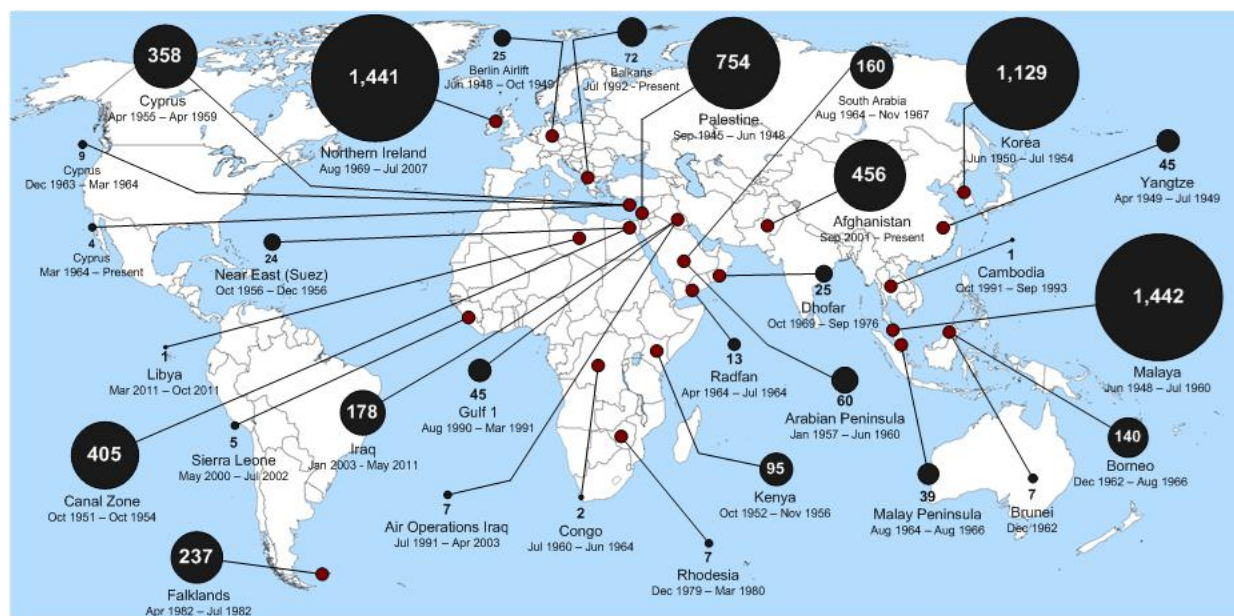


Figure 2 UK Armed Forces Operational Deaths post World War II, by location (MOD, 2017)⁶

For space and security reasons, the aerial campaigns (the 1948 Berlin airlift and the 2011 operation against Libya, Op ELLAMY) and current operations, particularly Op SHADER – the operation against Daesh, the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, (ISIL) in Iraq and Syria – have been omitted from the following narrative.

Palestine, 3 September 1945 – 30 June 1948

Between the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, British Armed Forces were deployed within Palestine (then a United Nations Mandate) in response to an increasingly violent insurgency campaign by militant Jewish underground groups seeking independence. This campaign had commenced in 1939 in reaction to political restrictions on Jewish immigration and political moves towards an independent, Arab-majority, Palestine. It rapidly escalated once demobilised Jewish soldiers who had served in the British armed forces during the war brought their expertise to the insurgency. The main militant Jewish

⁶ UK armed forces deaths: post World War II tables; 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2-2017>.

organisation was Haganah, which by 1945 had spawned two breakaway guerrilla units, the Stern Gang and the Irgun.

The most notorious atrocity was the bombing on 22 July 1946 of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem by Irgun terrorists, with the loss of 91 lives and another 41 badly injured. The Hotel was the Headquarters of British Forces in Palestine and Transjordan, and also housed the Secretariat of the Government of Palestine.

Jewish violence sparked equally violent reaction by the Arab Liberation Movement, with Arab irregular forces openly battling Jewish forces for territory throughout Palestine, and the British being caught in between. Relentless Zionist terrorist atrocities against British troops also caused public opinion in Britain to swing against a continued presence in Palestine.

In 1947 Britain conceded defeat in her attempts to achieve peace between Arab and Jewish communities, handing over the problem to the UN. In November 1947 the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 181 in favour of partition, declaring that the mandate would end on 15 May 1948. The British pulled out at midnight on 14 May, and the state of Israel was born in blood as she was attacked simultaneously by the Armies of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq (through Jordan) and Egypt.

754 British servicemen lost their lives during these three years of futile attempts to reconcile Arab and Jewish communities in Palestine.

Recommended reading:

1. Brutton, Philip. *A Captain's Mandate – Palestine 1946 – 1948* (London: Leo Cooper, 1996)
2. Royle, Trevor. *Palestine, 1945 – 1948: A No-Win Situation*. In: *The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945 – 2000* (Ed: Maj Gen Julian Thompson) (London: Pan Books, 2002)
3. Wilson, Dare. *With 6th Airborne Division in Palestine 1945 – 1948* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2008)
4. Hughes, Matthew. *Trouble in Palestine* *British Army Review* 2015; Issue 154 (Spring/Summer), 103 – 108
5. *British Forces in Palestine* <http://www.britishforcesinpalestine.org/index.html>

India, 1946 – 1948

There had been 45 battalions of British infantry, and a total of 45,250 British troops, in India in 1939, intermixed in brigades with locally raised units in the Indian Army. When the Second World War ended, the battalions shrank as they demobilised many of their men, so were removed from their Indian brigades.

India was now clamouring for independence and was in ferment. A series of short-lived mutinies broke out in the autumn of 1945, initially at a RAF camp near Calcutta, and by the Royal Indian Air Force in sympathy. Much more serious were the mutinies in February 1946 by the Royal Indian Navy at Bombay and at Karachi, which had to be ended by the British military with force and some loss of life. Simultaneously, in a sinister portent of events to come, sectarian riots broke out between Moslems and Hindus in Calcutta, only quelled after several days by British battalions coming to the aid of the police.

In August 1946, at the height of the monsoon, Calcutta suffered the first orgy of communal madness, several days of wanton sectarian massacres, with 4,000 Moslems and Hindus being killed and a further 10,000 injured, before the three resident battalions (York and Lancasters, Green Howards, and Worcesters), and others, could restore order, remove the corpses, and recover from their own wounds.

The madness spread, stretching the battalions to the limit – Bombay was next in September, followed by reciprocal Hindu and Moslem massacres in Eastern Bengal and Bihar in October, and then the Punjab in January 1947, where Moslems and Sikhs now warred against one another. The Indian Army, with its mixture of Hindus, Moslems and Sikhs within each battalion tenaciously holding to the traditions of the service under the leadership of their British officers, was effectively the only barrier preventing complete disintegration of the country. The British battalions were now tasked to help maintain the stability and integrity of the Indian Army while trying to avoid direct involvement in suppressing intercommunal disturbances. Nonetheless, especially in the Punjab, some battalions did give much appreciated help in the daunting task of dampening down the violence.

On 3 June 1947, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, recently appointed Viceroy as successor to Field Marshal Viscount Wavell, announced the agreement that the country would be split into India and Pakistan (the latter as West and East), with the Indian Army likewise being partitioned. On 18 July, the British Parliament decreed that India and Pakistan would become independent on 15 August, ten months earlier than originally pledged. All hope of an orderly transition disappeared as the British battalions sped up the process of disbanding and preparing to depart. India and Pakistan formally became independent at the stroke of midnight on 15 August, the process tragically bloodied by six weeks of horrific ethnic massacres, and massive migration movements across the religious divide.

On 1 January 1948, four of the ten regiments of Gurkhas in the Brigade of Gurkhas within the Indian Army were transferred to the British Army. The end of an era came as the last British battalions left in early 1948. In Pakistan the 2nd Battalion The Black Watch embarked from Karachi on 26 February. In India the honour fell to the 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, who trooped their colours on 28 February through the Gateway of India, in Bombay, and embarked for the UK.

Recommended reading:

1. *India (1945 – 48)*. In: Blaxland, Gregory. *The Regiments Depart – A History of the British Army, 1945 – 1970* (London: William Kimber, 1971): Chapter 2, pp. 15 - 26

Malaya, 16 June 1948 – 31 July 1960 (The Malayan Emergency)

The period immediately following the Japanese occupation of Malaya during the Second World War was marked by serious unrest, as the Malayan Communist Party, backed by China, sought to overthrow the newly restored British Colonial Administration. Following the formation of the Marxist 'Malay Races Liberation Army' (MRLA), the Federal Government declared a state of emergency, with substantial British Forces being deployed to defeat the insurgency.

The government had to defeat the insurgency, not merely wait it out – the orthodox maxim for insurgency warfare held true, as much here as for later conflicts: if the government didn't win, it lost; if the insurgents didn't lose, they would win.

After a 12 year struggle, Malaya succeeded in overcoming its insurgents. Besides the effectiveness of the counter-insurgency tactics employed by British leaders Lieutenant General Sir Harold Briggs and his successor General (later Field Marshal) Sir Gerald Templer as Director of Operations, the primary reasons for this success were geographical and ethnic. Malaya, being at one end of a long peninsula, was isolated from its source of support from China and, later, North Vietnam. Secondly, over 90 per cent of the MRLA were of Chinese ancestry, unlike the great majority of Malaya's population, who never joined the insurgency in substantial numbers.

It required a considerable military presence to defeat the rebellion by, at most, some 8,000 insurgents. By the end of 1951, there were 25 combat battalions and a total of 55,000 military personnel, including 25,000 British and Commonwealth troops and 10,000 Gurkhas, fighting the rebels, in addition to 84,000 police and 50,000 Malay Home Guard. By the end of the campaign, Malaya had also gained its independence (in 1957), but on British, not communist, terms.

The Operation in Malaya resulted in the largest number of deaths among UK Armed Forces personnel in any operation since the Second World War, with the loss of 1,442 lives between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960.

Recommended reading:

1. Scurr, John. *The Malayan Campaign 1948-60* (Osprey Publishing, 1982)

2. Grey, Jeffrey. *Malaya, 1948 – 1960: Defeating Communist Insurgency*. In: *The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945 – 2000* (Ed: Maj Gen Julian Thompson) (London: Pan Books, 2002)

3. Jackson, Robert. *The Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation: The Commonwealth's Wars 1948-1966* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2011)

Korea, 25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953

The Korean conflict was the first major battleground of the Cold War era, and the only time since the Second World War that two superpowers have engaged directly in battle.

Following Japan's defeat in 1945 the Korean peninsula was divided in two around the 38th Parallel of Latitude. The north was occupied by the Soviet Union, and the south by the United States. A Communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established in the north, led by Premier Kim Il Sung (establishing a troublesome family dynasty), while in the south the democratic Republic of Korea was established on 15 August 1947. Friction between the two Koreas existed from the start, with Communist-inspired rebellions in the south commencing in 1946. These prefaced a full-scale and initially successful invasion of the south by the North Korean Army on 25 June 1950, with the south's capital, Seoul, falling on 28 June – the Cold War had turned hot.

The United Nations immediately condemned the invasion and called for military assistance to the Republic of Korea.⁷ On 27 June, the US, under President Harry Truman, authorised American air and sea forces from the Far East command to support the Republic of Korea, with ground troops being committed from 30 June. As North Korea continued with its assault, the UN authorised the deployment of a multinational UN force under US command.⁸ Britain initially contributed a Commonwealth Brigade from the Hong Kong garrison, and later a Commonwealth Division with the addition of Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and more troops from the UK (including National Servicemen and Reservists). Britain's contribution was the second largest after the US, at its peak approximately 16,000 troops, and overall over 81,000.

While the UN supported South Korea, China joined the war on the North Korean side, with its massive manpower resources initially overwhelming the UN (including US) forces. The ensuing three year conflict between ideologies would involve over 21 nations as combatants, and result in over 1.5 million deaths. Over 36,600 US military, and 1,129 British military, were killed in Korea, with over 100,000 US military wounded. The US dead are commemorated at the Korean War Veterans Memorial

⁷ United Nations Security Council Resolutions 82 and 83, dated 25 June and 27 June 1950 respectively <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/1950.shtml>

⁸ United Nations Security Council Resolution 84, dated 7 July 1950. (United Nations Security Council Resolutions adopted in 1950 <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/1950.shtml>)

on the National Mall, Washington DC, dedicated on 27 July 1995,⁹ while British dead are commemorated in St Paul's Cathedral and on the Embankment in London.

Significant British battles: The Battle of the Imjin River, 22-25 April 1951. This involved a heroic defence by the British 29th Infantry Brigade, with three British battalions: 1st Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, and the 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles, together with a Belgian battalion, against overwhelming odds in a surprise attack by the 63rd Chinese Army, with its 187, 188 and 189 Divisions, during Peking's surprise spring offensive.

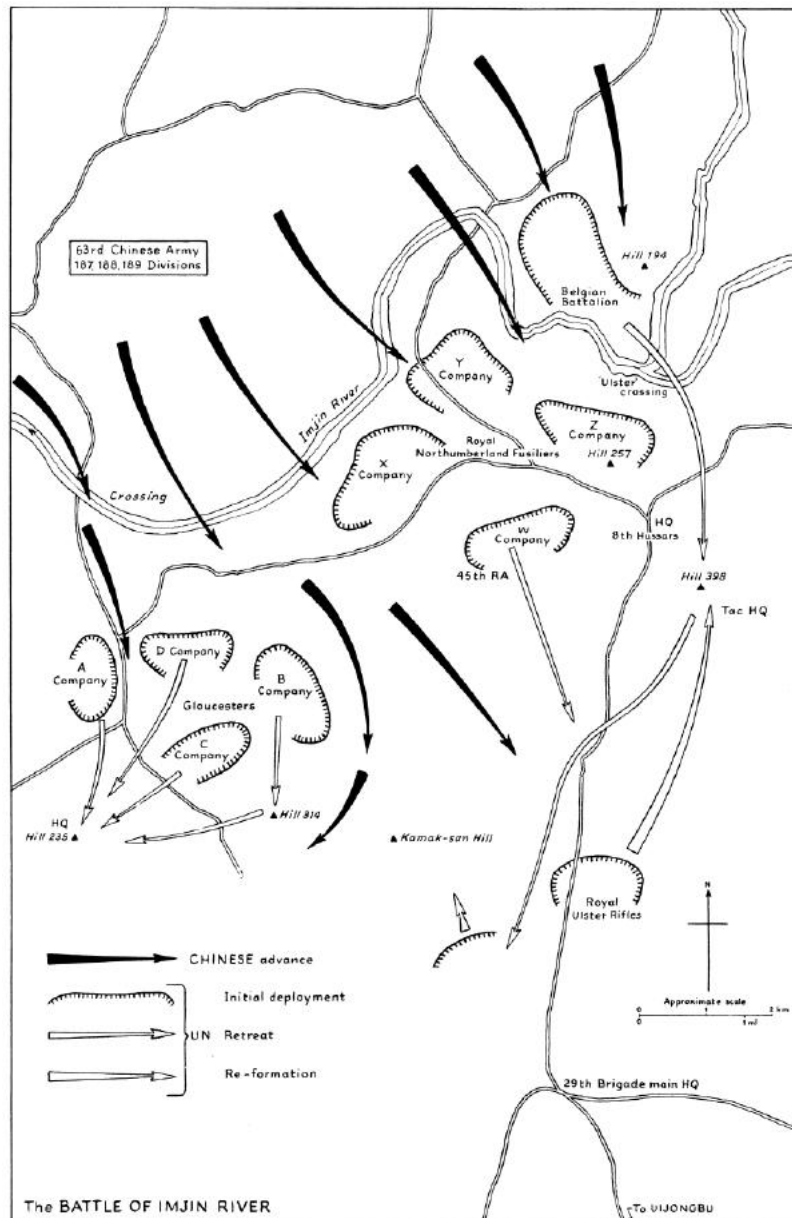


Figure 3 The Battle of Imjin River (Source: Max Hastings, *The Korean War*)

⁹ Korean War Veterans Memorial <http://www.koreanwarvetsmemorial.org/the-memorial/>



Figure 4 Korean War Memorial, London (unveiled 3 December 2014)

Recommended reading:

1. *History of UN Forces in Korean War*, Volumes 1 – 5 (Ministry of National Defense, Republic of Korea: 1975) (available at the Library, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst)
2. Hastings, Max. *The Korean War* (London: Simon & Schuster, 1988)
3. Whiting, Charles. *Battleground KOREA – The British in Korea* (Stroud: Sutton Publishing, 1999)

Medical Support:

1. Cowdrey, Albert E. *The Medics' War* (Washington, DC: US Army Center of Military History, 1987) <https://archive.org/details/medicswar00cowd>
2. Reister, Frank. *Battle Casualties and Medical Statistics - U.S. Army Experience in the Korean War* (US Army Medical Department, Office of Medical History) <http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/korea/reister/reister.html>
3. Woodard, S.C. The Story of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (Winner of The AMSUS History of Medicine Essay Award) *Military Medicine* 2003;168 (7):503

4. Apel, Otto & Apel, Pat. *MASH – An Army Surgeon in Korea* (University of Kentucky Press: 1998)¹⁰

5. Hooker, Richard *M*A*S*H* (William Morrow: 1968; Cassell: 2004)¹¹

Canal Zone, 1951 – 1954

Britain's strategic interest in Egypt centred on its link to empire through the Suez Canal. The Canal had been completed in 1869 by a Franco-Egyptian consortium which had negotiated a 99-year lease from the Egyptian Viceroy under which the Canal would revert to Egyptian ownership in 1968. The Egyptian shareholding was sold to the British by the Khedive of Egypt in the 1870s. France and Britain maintained control of the Suez Canal thereafter, and during the First World War Britain prevented the Ottoman Turks from capturing the Canal. From 1914 until 1922 Egypt was a British protectorate, being given nominal independence thereafter. This was formalised by the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty in 1936 which proclaimed Egypt as an independent sovereign state, but allowed British troops to be stationed in the Suez Canal Zone until 1956, when their continued presence might be re-negotiated.

When the Second World War ended, Britain began withdrawing from empire while attempting to maintain a presence in the oil-rich Middle East. Egyptians began demanding an end to British occupation of the Canal Zone, the demands escalating with the rise of nationalist feeling after the creation of Israel and defeat of the Arab nations in the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948. In 1950 anti-British riots broke out in the Canal Zone and Alexandria.

In May 1951, Iran nationalised its oil industry, then owned by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Britain rejected the use of military force to retain its oil interests, withdrawing its workforce from Iran on 4 October 1951, thereby unwittingly sending a catalytic message to nationalists everywhere.

4 days later, on 8 October 1951, Egypt's prime minister, Nahas Pasha, declared the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936 to be null and void, demanding a total evacuation of British forces from Egyptian territory. The security situation deteriorated markedly, with the 30,000 British troops in Egypt, and their families, coming under sporadic attack, and violent riots breaking out throughout Cairo. British threats to occupy Cairo prompted King Farouk to dismiss Nahas Pasha, but in July 1952 King Farouk

¹⁰ Otto Apel provides a vivid account of the challenges of war surgery, as faced by a US Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) in Korea at the height of the fighting. 21,048 patients were admitted to his hospital in 1951, including 8,675 wounded. Three surgeons with three assistants operated on 5,176 patients, of whom 4,993 were battle casualties. The average pace was 100 operations a week, with surgeons sometimes operating for 80 hours at a stretch. Apel's account remains as relevant to high intensity war surgery in a modern conventional conflict against a peer enemy as when it was penned.

¹¹ Richard Hooker's *M*A*S*H* is a light hearted adaptation of Otto Apel's book, forming the basis for a popular television series, but it does not shirk from the surgical accounts.

was overthrown in a military coup by General Mohammed Neguib. A certain Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser exercised considerable power in the new government, finally displacing General Neguib in March 1954.

Prolonged negotiations between Britain and Egypt's new government resulted in a new treaty in October 1954, under which British troops were to be withdrawn from Egypt by June 1956, with Egypt agreeing to respect the freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal.

British casualties in the Canal Zone between October 1951 and October 1954 numbered 64 killed and 124 wounded.

Recommended reading:

1. Milner, Laurie *The Canal Zone and Suez, 1951 – 1956: Disputed Waterway*. In: *The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945 – 2000* (Ed: Maj Gen Julian Thompson) (London: Pan Books, 2002)

Kenya, 1952 – 1956 (The Mau Mau Rebellion)

The Emergency in Kenya was the bloodiest and most controversial of all the counter-insurgency operations undertaken by the British since 1945. The Mau Mau was a violent and secretive organisation within the Kikuyu tribe of Kenya, which aimed to restore the proud tribe's pre-colonial superiority and remove white settlers from their country. The Mau Mau became increasingly active in the late 1940s, initially targeting Africans working for the colonial government, with violence then spreading to the European farms. By 1952 the situation had deteriorated so badly that on 20 October a State of Emergency was declared, with mass arrests being undertaken.

Many Mau Mau leaders and supporters escaped to the bush where the gangs formed a military structure. Brutal attacks on both whites and loyal Kikuyu demoralised the population, and local police and military were initially overstretched. Military reinforcements from UK troops in Egypt were called in to augment the garrison brigade of King's African Rifles. Tough measures were employed to put down the rebellion, such as mass deportation, protected camps, fines, and confiscation of property. These measures regrettably included torture, allegations to this effect eventually being upheld in 2012 by the High Court in Britain, leading to the first admission by a British government that Britain had carried out torture anywhere in its former empire. War crimes were committed by both sides in Kenya.

By 1955 the counter-insurgency force was primarily police-led, with the military playing a supporting role. There were now 3 brigades in Kenya, with the British 39th and 49th Brigades in support of the King's African Rifles. British Army strength in Kenya peaked at around 10,500. Ultimately, the terrorist campaign failed and the Mau Mau were decisively beaten. The capture of rebel leader Dedan Kimathi on

21 October 1956 effectively signalled the defeat of the Mau Mau, and ended the British military campaign. Security measures persisted, with the Emergency formally ceasing on 10 November 1959. Political reform followed, and Kenya became independent on 12 December 1963.

Recommended reading:

1. Bennett, Huw. *Fighting the Mau Mau: the British Army and counterinsurgency in the Kenya emergency* (Cambridge: Cambridge University press, 2013)
2. *Kenya's Mau Mau Rebellion, 1952-60* (University of Warwick – Master Reading List, 2016)
https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/students/modules/mau_mau/mm_reading_list_2016-17.pdf
3. Parry, Marc. Uncovering the brutal truth about the British Empire *The Guardian*, 18 August 2016 <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2016/aug/18/uncovering-truth-british-empire-caroline-elkins-mau-mau>
4. Van der Bijl, Nick. *The Mau Mau Rebellion: The Emergency in Kenya 1952 - 1956* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2017)

Cyprus, 1954 – 1959 (The EOKA Years)

After his election as Archbishop of Cyprus in 1950, Archbishop Makarios III failed to achieve his dream of Enosis (union with Greece) by peaceful means. He therefore collaborated secretly with a retired Greek Army colonel and experienced guerrilla fighter, Cypriot-born George Grivas, to help achieve his ends by military means.

Grivas founded the organisation EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agonistou, or 'National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters'), and commenced a bombing campaign against the British Colonial Administration on 1 April 1955. This led to the declaration of a State of Emergency in November 1955 by newly appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief Cyprus, Field Marshal Sir John Harding.

The Cyprus Emergency only ended in 1959 when Turkey and Greece forced Makarios to relinquish the struggle for Enosis in favour of promoting independence, which was duly granted to Cyprus on 15 August 1960.

371 British servicemen lost their lives during the Cyprus Emergency. They are buried at Wayne's Keep cemetery, now in the post-1974 UN buffer zone. The greatest loss of life was on 17 June 1956, in the Troodos Forest Fire during the hunt for Grivas, when 19 soldiers died and 18 were injured. The RAF (Temporary) Hospital at the newly opened RAF Akrotiri, with staff just arrived from Egypt after closure of the

British bases there, had its baptism of fire dealing with the human cost of this tragedy.¹²

Cyprus was in the throes of the Emergency when the Suez Crisis arose in late 1956. The scale of the EOKA conflict and its impact on the medical services in the RAF and Army hospitals on Cyprus are perhaps better appreciated when one realises that during the Suez operation more British troops died at the hands of EOKA in Cyprus (23 in November alone) than in fighting Nasser's troops.

Recommended reading:

1. Stiles, Richard. *Mayhem in the Med: A Chronicle of the Cyprus Emergency 1955 – 1960* (London: Savannah Publications, 2009)
2. Morgan, Tabitha. *Sweet and Bitter Island – A History of the British in Cyprus* (London: I B Tauris, 2010)
3. Van der Bijl, Nick. *The Cyprus Emergency – The Divided Island 1955 – 1974* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2014)
4. French, David. *Fighting EOKA: The British Counter - Insurgency Campaign on Cyprus, 1955-1959* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015)

Suez Crisis, 1956 (Op MUSKETEEER)

On 26 July 1956 President Nasser of Egypt nationalised the Anglo-French Suez Canal Company, declaring that he would take the revenue from the Canal to finance a new Aswan Dam. Anthony Eden, Britain's Prime Minister, decided on military action in an attempt to topple Nasser and restore British influence, despite American opposition, and commenced a build-up of forces in its bases in Malta and Cyprus.

Britain and France entered secret negotiations with Israel, agreeing on 24 October that Israel should launch a pre-emptive attack on Egypt to occupy the Sinai Desert, thereby providing a pretext for an Anglo-French invasion of Suez.

On 29 October 1956, the Israelis launched their attack, spearheaded by an airborne assault. Britain and France demanded that both sides stop the fighting immediately, but unsurprisingly the Israelis persisted until they had achieved all their objectives, halting 100 hours later just short of Suez, ostensibly in response to the British ultimatum.¹³

On 5 November, the Anglo-French assault on Suez was launched, commencing with airborne landings by British and French paratroopers to capture El Gamil airfield.

¹² Vassallo, David. *Who was Sapper Brown? Remembering British military burials in Cyprus* (Kettering: Crest Publications, 2014) (available from the author via djvassallo@aol.com)

¹³ Henriques, Robert. *100 Hours to Suez* (London: Collins, 1957)

This was followed a day later by seaborne landings by 40 and 42 Commando Royal Marine, with 45 Commando assaulting by helicopter in the first helicopter assault ever. Port Said and the upper reaches of the Canal were promptly captured, though the Canal had been blocked with sunken vessels.

On the medical side, a six-man field surgical team from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance (23 PFA), under Captain Norman Kirby RAMC, took part in the airborne assault on 5 November – this being the last time to date (2021) that a British surgical team has parachuted into action.¹⁴

2 Casualty Clearing Station (2 CCS, predecessor of 22 Field Hospital) had deployed with the invasion fleet from Malta. They came ashore on 6 November with 40 and 42 Commando RM, setting up a medical facility at the Casino Palace Hotel. A seaborne Surgical Team from 23 PFA also came ashore, and worked alongside surgeons from 2 CCS operating on some British but mainly Egyptian wounded. They were joined by 15 Field Ambulance.

At midnight on 6 November, a ceasefire was called at the insistence of the UN Secretary General. Though the invasion had been successful militarily, politically it was a disaster. Furious world opinion, led by an enraged President Eisenhower, and the threat of Soviet intervention, forced Britain, France and Israel to withdraw their troops from Egypt. Eden resigned in January 1957, British influence east of Suez was diminished, and Anglo-American relations were left at an all-time low.

British casualties for this operation were 24 killed and around 100 wounded.

Recommended reading:

1. Milner, Laurie. *The Canal Zone and Suez, 1951 – 1956: Disputed Waterway*. In: *The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945 – 2000* (Ed: Maj Gen Julian Thompson) (London: Pan Books, 2002)
2. Varble, Derek. *Essential Histories: The Suez Crisis 1956* (Oxford: Osprey Publishing, 2003)

Brunei, 8 December 1962 – 18 May 1963 (The Brunei Revolt)

On 8 December 1962, a group of some 3,500 nationalists, who had secretly formed the North Kalimantan National Army (TNKU), rebelled against the Sultan of the oil-rich tiny kingdom of Brunei, immediately over-running the Seria oilfields and seizing

¹⁴ Parker PJ, Kirby N Operation MUSKETEEER – The Suez Crisis 1956 *J R Army Med Corps* 2008; 154(4): 231-235. Captain Kirby would eventually be promoted to Major General and edit the 1981 edition of the Field Surgery Pocket Book.

hostages. The rebels were covertly supported by communist-leaning Indonesia, whose President Sukarno aspired to establish an Indonesian Empire that would unite Malaya with Indonesia. Within this context, the rebels' aim was to prevent Brunei joining the newly proposed Federation of Malaysia, which sought to merge Malaya with the British colony of Singapore and the three British colonies in Borneo (namely North Borneo (Sabah), Sarawak and Brunei).

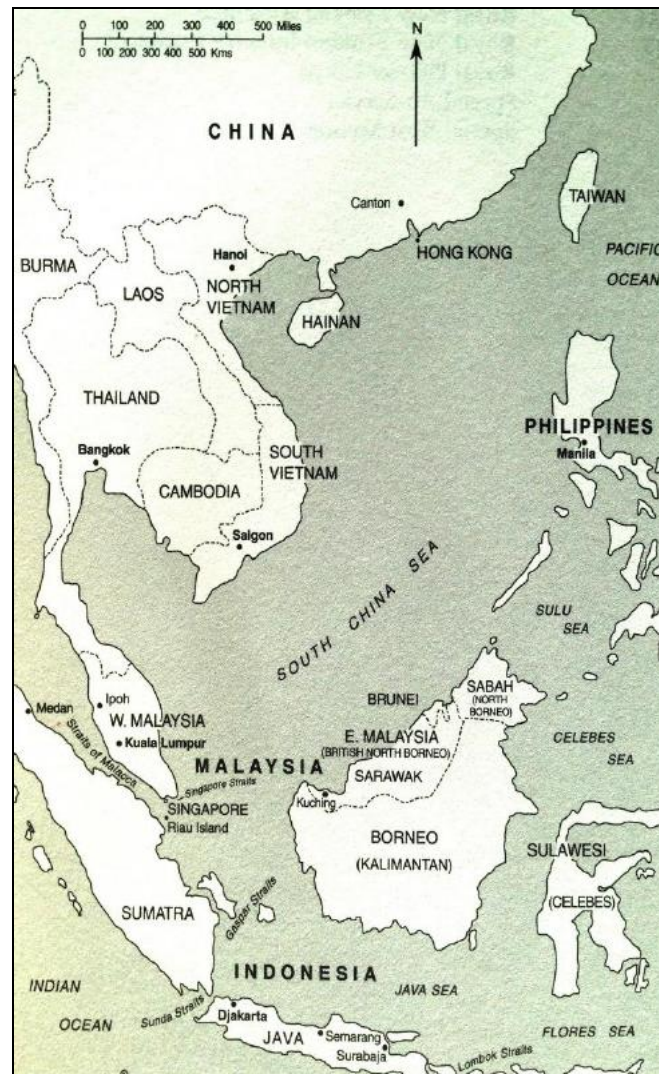


Figure 5 Southeast Asia in the 1960s (source: Nick van der Bijl)¹⁵

As Brunei was a UK protectorate (and would remain so until independence in 1984), the Sultan appealed to the UK for help. Within hours the first British troops (the 1/2nd Gurkha Rifles) had flown in from Singapore, followed by air-landing attacks by the 1st Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders to seize the strategically important Anduki airfield, and amphibious landings by the 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets and 42 Commando Royal Marines. The troops crushed the rebellion and released all hostages within two weeks, by 23 December, at the cost of seven killed and 28 wounded.

¹⁵ Van der Bijl, Nick. *Confrontation – The War with Indonesia 1962 – 1966* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2007, 2014)

The next five months were spent restoring stability and capturing surviving rebels, while protecting the 1,000 mile long dense jungle border between the British colonies and Indonesian Borneo (Kalimantan) against Indonesian incursion, under the leadership of the UK's top jungle warfare expert, the charismatic Major General Walter Walker, who had honed his skills in the Malayan Emergency. The last TNKU rebels, including their military commander, were captured on 18 May 1963, effectively ending the rebellion.

Recommended reading:

1. Majid, Harun Abdul. *Rebellion in Brunei* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2007)
2. Van der Bijl, Nick. *The Brunei Revolt 1962 – 1963* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2012)

Borneo, 24 December 1962 – 11 August 1966 ('Confrontation')

The Brunei Revolt in December 1962, while rapidly suppressed, was the catalyst for the four year Confrontation between Malaysia and Indonesia, which opposed the creation of a Malaysian Federation. The term 'Confrontation' was coined by Indonesia's foreign minister, Dr Subandrio, in January 1963, in relation to Indonesia's attempts to destabilise and break up this Federation. Confrontation primarily occurred across the 1,000 mile jungle border in Borneo. Armed Indonesian 'volunteers' began launching cross-border incursions into the British colonies of Sabah and Sarawak in early 1963 on propaganda and sabotage missions, with Indonesian regular army units becoming involved by 1964. Confrontation also occurred around the Crown colony of Singapore and the coast of the Malayan peninsula, with occasional seaborne and airborne landings.

The 'Confrontation' eventually involved some 20,000 British, Gurkha and Commonwealth troops from Australia and New Zealand, with air and naval support, and yet it went practically unreported at the time, with both the UK and Indonesian governments keeping their operations as low profile as possible, easy enough with the world's attention focussed on Vietnam. After the formal proclamation of Malaysia in September 1963, Malay units moved into Borneo alongside the British. This 'secret war' saw the Special Air Service (SAS) perfecting their jungle tactics, a Parachute Regiment action described as 'a second Rorke's Drift', and audacious secret missions deep inside enemy territory, one of which resulted in the award to a Gurkha soldier of the Victoria Cross.

Under the firm leadership of Major General Walter Walker, Indonesian incursions were rigorously opposed. Following Indonesian sea and parachute landings on the mainland of Malaya, Walker obtained permission to mount Top Secret 'CLARET' cross-border operations against the previously safe Indonesian base areas in Kalimantan. The operations initially used Special Forces and later took the form of Chindit-style long range patrols, with highly trained security forces (whose officers and NCOs had gained invaluable jungle ambush experience in the Malayan

Emergency) living like guerrillas and outplaying the insurgents at their own game. These operations actively took the fight to the enemy, they were spectacularly successful, and they arguably were the turning point of the conflict, resulting in military victory and avoidance of a British 'Vietnam' debacle. Indonesia lost appetite for Confrontation, negotiations commenced with Malaysia, and Confrontation ended with a ceasefire in August 1966. The British had lost 19 killed and 44 wounded, the Gurkhas 43 killed and 83 wounded. The Australians lost 22 killed (including seven killed in action), and seven wounded, and the New Zealanders seven killed and seven wounded. Indonesian losses were significantly higher.

From a medical perspective, perhaps the most noteworthy war trauma event was in April 1964, when Captain Patrick Crawford RAMC, Regimental Medical Officer for the 1/7th Gurkha Rifles, was involved in a helicopter crash in a ravine. Despite his own injuries, he carried out a difficult emergency amputation (without anaesthesia) to save the life of a fellow officer who was suspended in the wreckage of the cabin by his trapped arm. Captain Crawford was awarded the George Medal for this exploit. He eventually became Parkes Professor of Preventive Medicine and then Commandant of the Royal Army Medical College and Postgraduate Dean before he retired as Major General.¹⁶

Recommended reading:

1. James, Harold & Sheil-Small, Denis. *The Undeclared War* (London: Leo Cooper, 1971)
2. Fowler, Will. *Britain's Secret War: The Indonesian Confrontation 1962 – 66* (Oxford: Osprey Publishing (Men-at-Arms series), 2006)
3. Van der Bijl, Nick. *Confrontation – The War with Indonesia 1962 – 1966* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2007, 2014)
4. McDonough, Richard. *A Brief History Of The Brunei Revolt And The Indonesian Confrontation* (Imperial War Museums, <http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/a-brief-history-of-the-brunei-revolt-and-the-indonesian-confrontation>)

Radfan Campaign, 25 April – 31 July 1964

Radfan was an unsettled tribal area in British South Arabia (then designated the Federation of South Arabia, not to be confused with Saudi Arabia), just north of the main British base of Aden, adjoining the disputed border with Yemen. The punitive 1964 Radfan Campaign was fought against dissident Qutaibi tribesmen, known as

¹⁶ Obituary - Major-General Patrick Crawford *The Telegraph*, 23 March 2009
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/military-obituaries/army-obituaries/5039520/Major-General-Patrick-Crawford.html>

the 'Red Wolves of Radfan', who were attacking the British on the Aden to Mecca caravan route. The tribal rebellion had been incited by Yemen and Egypt, which had 40,000 troops in Yemen, with Nasser having just visited the Yemen vowing to 'kick the British right out of the Arab world'.

The British operation commenced in April 1964 on the orders of the General Officer Commanding Middle East Land Forces (GOC MELF), based in Aden. At its peak, the British deployed a full brigade, reinforced with a full Royal Marine Commando (45 Cdo RM), a company from 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, and two battalions of the local Federal Army.

The insurrection was put down by early June, with Radfan tribal leaders agreeing to keep the peace. Thirteen servicemen lost their lives, in what was to be Britain's last punitive colonial campaign.

Recommended reading:

1. Harper, Stephen. *South Arabia and Aden, 1964 – 1967: Tribesmen and Terrorists*. In: *The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945 – 2000* (Ed: Maj Gen Julian Thompson) (London: Pan Books, 2002).
2. Van der Bijl, Nick. *British Military Operations in Aden & Radfan: 100 Years of British Colonial Rule* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2014)

South Arabia Campaign, 1 August 1964 – 30 November 1967

After the Radfan insurgency was suppressed, a new insurgency broke out, in another attempt inspired by Nasser to end the British presence in Aden and also bring down the embryonic Federation of South Arabia. Aden's garrison was reinforced to support the British MELF HQ and the Federal Government, totalling at its peak 8 infantry battalions in 2 brigades, backed by about 5,000 local troops, but at best they could only contain the escalating violence.

In 1966, the new British Labour Government, under Prime Minister Harold Wilson, reversed the earlier Conservative Government's decision to maintain a British military base in Aden after independence in January 1968. Instead it announced that Britain would withdraw from East of Suez, with forces to leave Aden in 1967. The Federal Government felt betrayed, while the two main terrorist liberation movements in Aden were emboldened, intensifying their violent campaign against British troops, whilst undertaking a bloody civil war against one another and the Federal Government. Tension heightened after Israel's swift defeat of Egypt in the Six-Day War of June 1967, Britain being perceived as Israel's ally. Civil police mutinied, and Arab mobs rampaged through the Crater district before British troops, under Lieutenant Colonel Mitchell ('Mad Mitch') re-asserted control.

The British carried out a phased fighting withdrawal over the next few months, with the Federal Government collapsing and its Army joining in the civil war on the side of the main liberation movement. The last British troops hauled down the flag and left Aden by helicopter from the aptly named 'Fort Alamo' on 30 November 1967, now celebrated as Yemen's Independence Day.

Aden descended into chaos, with the communist People's Democratic Republic of Yemen emerging in 1970, becoming for many years a haven for airline hijackers and terrorists, and a base for the Soviet Navy. A civil war (1986 to 1990) ended in union with the Yemen Arab Republic to the north, resulting in today's Republic of Yemen.

Recommended reading:

1. Harper, Stephen. *South Arabia and Aden, 1964 – 1967: Tribesmen and Terrorists*. In: *The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945 – 2000* (Ed: Maj Gen Julian Thompson) (London: Pan Books, 2002)
2. Walker, Jonathan. *Aden Insurgency: The Savage War in Yemen 1962-67* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2005 & 2014)
3. Edwards, Aaron. *Mad Mitch's Tribal Law* (Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing, 2014)

Dhofar (Oman), 1 October 1969 – 3 September 1976

Between 1969 and 1976, while the attention of the world was on Vietnam, British troops surreptitiously helped the Sultanate of Oman defeat a strategically significant communist-backed insurgency in the mountainous western province of Dhofar. If the insurgency had succeeded in toppling the Sultan, then Oman, guarding the Hormuz Straits at the entrance to the Arabian Gulf through which two thirds of the Western World's oil was shipped, would have come under the sway of communist Russia and could potentially hold the Western World to ransom. The smaller Gulf States would also have been threatened by rebellion.

The British troops included a Royal Artillery battery, a Royal Engineer squadron, a medical unit (55 Field Surgical Team), a SAS squadron, and others from the Royal Corps of Signals and the RAF Regiment. Their active role in training and operating alongside the Sultan's Armed Forces helped turn the tide against the rebels. The Sultanate of Oman still maintains close links with the UK.

Recommended reading:

1. Gardiner, Ian. *In the Service of the Sultan* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2006)
2. Hart-Davis, Jeff. *The War that Never Was* (London: Random House, 2011)
3. 55 Field Surgical Team RAMC www.55fstramc.com

Northern Ireland, 14 August 1969 – 31 July 2007 (Op BANNER)

An escalation in sectarian violence by Protestants against the Catholic community in Belfast in 1969 led to the deployment of British troops to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), at the request of the Unionist government of Northern Ireland. Thereafter, security forces faced opposition and violence from both sides of the sectarian divide at various times.

Broadly speaking, there were four phases to Op BANNER. The first (1969 – 1971) was characterised by widespread public disorder. The second (from summer 1971 to mid-1970s) was classic insurgency, with both the Official and Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) fighting as formed bodies against the security forces. The security response included the massive Op MOTORMAN, a divisional level operation between 31 July and 1 December 1972. This resulted in the Official IRA declaring a ceasefire which became permanent. The Provisional IRA began transforming itself into a terrorist organisation, with a 'cell' structure. The third phase (mid-1970s – 1994) was characterised by the use of terrorist tactics, as the Provisional IRA developed into a ruthless and proficient terrorist organisation with international reach, while its political wing (Sinn Féin) became involved in mainstream politics.

The scale of British military commitment during The Troubles was considerable. There were only three battalions of infantry in Northern Ireland in late 1969, but at the peak of the campaign, during Op MOTORMAN, 28,000 soldiers were deployed. Well over 250,000 members of the Regular Army served there during this campaign, as well as many tens of thousands in the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) and its successor, the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Force (HSF). It was fairly common for over 10,000 soldiers to be deployed on the streets.

The Provisional IRA declared a ceasefire in 1994. This eventually led to the Good Friday Agreement in Belfast in 1998, after which the operation was gradually scaled down, in what was effectively the fourth phase, conflict resolution, of Op BANNER.

722 service personnel died due to hostile action in Northern Ireland between 14 August 1969 and 31 July 2007, the official ending of Op BANNER.¹⁷

Recommended reading:

¹⁷ The definitive account of the 3,637 men, women and children who lost their lives in the Northern Ireland Troubles between 1969 and 1999, including the British military casualties, is *'Lost Lives'*, by David McKittrick, Seamus Kelters, Brian Feeney and Chris Thornton (Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing, 1999)

1. Operation BANNER – *An Analysis of Military Operations in Northern Ireland* (London: Ministry of Defence, 2006) (Army Code 71842))
2. Van der Bijl, Nick. *Operation BANNER – The British Army in Northern Ireland 1969 – 2007* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2009)
3. Newsinger, John. *The Long War: Northern Ireland*. In: *British counterinsurgency* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2nd edition, 2015), Chapter 7, pp. 157 – 200

Falklands War, 2 April – 14 June 1982 (Op CORPORATE)

Amateurs or juniors discuss tactics, while their seniors and other professionals discuss logistics (Apocryphal)

Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in April 1982, and the British retook the islands in June. Nonetheless, it was a very near-run thing as the British faced massive logistical challenges, having to project and sustain a Task Force consisting of a Carrier Task Group and an Amphibious Task Group across a distance of 8,000 miles. Op CORPORATE was a substantial sea, land and air deployment, involving 44 warships (including 6 submarines), 22 Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships, 54 requisitioned civilian ships 'taken up from trade' (STUFT), 3 Commando Brigade RM, 5 Infantry Brigade, and aircraft from 17 RAF Squadrons.



Figure 6 *The logistic challenges of the Falklands Campaign (Image by Department of History, United States Military Academy (www.westpoint.edu), via Wikimedia Commons)*

The main battles were the amphibious landing at San Carlos Bay, and the Battles for Goose Green, Mount Longdon and Tumbledown.

The British sustained significant naval losses, losing six ships (and one LCU craft). This was the first time British ships had been sunk in conflict since the Second World War, and the first time that some were sunk by anti-ship missiles (HMS *Sheffield* and SS *Atlantic Conveyor*). HMS *Coventry*, *Ardent*, *Antelope* and RFA *Sir Galahad* were sunk by bombs. The Argentinians lost the cruiser *Belgrano*, torpedoed and sunk by the British submarine HMS *Conqueror* with the loss of 323 sailors.

Deployed Hospital Care was provided ashore by surgical support teams, a Role 2 facility (jointly run by Paras and Marines and therefore known as the Red and Green Life Machine) at Ajax Bay, and by a Role 3 facility afloat on board SS *Uganda*, a cruise liner converted into a hospital ship. Casualties (both Argentinian and British) were then transferred from SS *Uganda* to hospital carrier ships HMS *Hecla*, *Herald* and *Hydra* for onward evacuation to Montevideo in neutral Uruguay and then aeromedical evacuation to Argentina or the UK. SS *Canberra* also served temporarily as a hospital ship.¹⁸

The war cost 255 British servicemen killed (including Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Merchant Navy), 777 wounded with 10 percent of those permanently disabled, 6 ships lost, many other ships damaged, and 20 aircraft destroyed. Argentina suffered an estimated 750 killed and 1,100 wounded.

The Falkland War presents one of the best examples of “lessons learned” for addressing both anti-access and area denial in a modern conventional conflict.

Recommended reading:

1. Jolly, Rick. *The Red and Green Life Machine* (London: Cornerstone, 1983)
2. Hastings, Max & Jenkins, Simon. *The Battle for the Falklands* (London: Michael Joseph, 1983)
3. Middlebrook, Martin. *Operation CORPORATE – The Story of the Falklands War, 1982* (London: Viking, 1985)
4. Woodward, Sandy. *One Hundred Days – The Memoirs of the Falklands Battle Group Commander* (London: HarperCollins, 1992)

¹⁸ Vine, Andrew. *A Very Strange Way To Go To War – The Canberra in the Falklands* (London: Aurum Press, 2012)

5. Freedman, Lawrence. *The Official History of the Falklands Campaign, Volume 1: The origins of the Falkland War, & Volume 2: War and Diplomacy* (Oxford: Routledge, 2005; revised 2nd edition 2009)
6. Stephen Badsey, Rob Havers and Mark Grove (eds). *The Falklands conflict twenty years on: lessons for the future* (Sandhurst Conference Series) (London: Frank Cass, 2005)
7. Privratsky KL. *Logistics in the Falklands War* (Barnsley: Pen and Sword; 2016)
8. Fremont-Barnes, Gregory. *A companion to the Falklands War* (Stroud: History Press, 2017)
9. Operation CORPORATE 35th Anniversary Special Edition – *Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service* 2017 (summer); 103 (2): (see particularly:
 - i. Pugh, N. The conversion, role and service of Her Majesty's Hospital Ship UGANDA during the Falklands War: April-August 1982 (pp.83-88)
 - ii. Penn-Barwell JG, Jolly R, Rickard R. Medical Support to Operation CORPORATE (pp. 93-97)

Kuwait, First Gulf War (Op GRANBY) (US – Operation DESERT SHIELD / DESERT STORM), 2 August 1990 – 28 February 1991

On 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait, claiming the territory for itself. A massive UN-endorsed international force of over 750,000 troops was assembled under US command (General Norman Schwarzkopf), initially to protect Saudi Arabia from invasion (Operation DESERT SHIELD), and then to liberate Kuwait (Operation DESERT STORM).

Britain contributed strongly to the liberation of Kuwait, under Op GRANBY, eventually supplying an armoured division of two brigades (the 1st Armoured Division with 7th Armoured Brigade (the Desert Rats) and 4th Mechanised Brigade) with impressively large logistic support. Over 30,000 Army personnel were involved, as well as there being significant Royal Navy and Royal Air Force participation. The 1st Armoured Division, with its Challenger tanks, was to play a pivotal role in the massive left hook around Iraqi defences.

Militarily, the operation was a resounding success, the Iraqis being expelled from Kuwait after only a few days and with minimal allied casualties. These included 45 British fatalities (24 from hostile action) and 148 US battle deaths (out of 694,550 US

personnel deployed to the Gulf).¹⁹

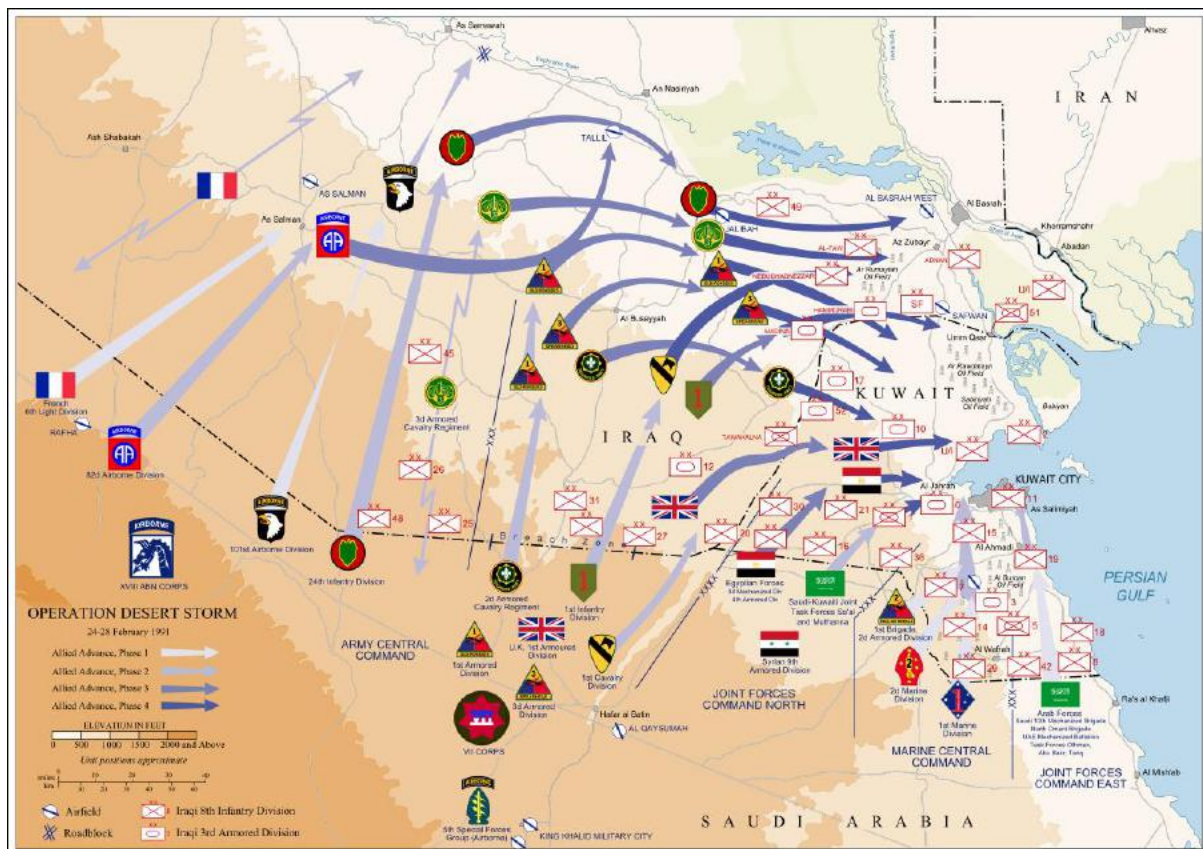


Figure 7 Operation Desert Storm, ground offensive 24 – 28 February 1991 (Jeff Dahl)²⁰

Recommended reading:

1. De la Billiere, Peter. *Storm Command – A Personal Account of the Gulf War* (London: HarperCollins, 1992)
2. Pimlott, John & Badsey, Stephen (for Department of War Studies Royal Military Academy Sandhurst). *The Gulf War assessed* (London: Arms and Armour Press, 1992)
3. Schwarzkopf, H. Norman. *It Doesn't Take a Hero: The Autobiography of General H. Norman Schwarzkopf* (New York: Bantam Books, 1993)
4. Cordingley, Patrick. *In the Eye of the Storm – Commanding the Desert Rats in the Gulf War* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1996)

Medical Support:

¹⁹ *America's Wars Fact Sheet – Veterans' Affairs* (November 2020)

https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/fs_americas_wars.pdf

²⁰ By Jeff Dahl - self-vectored from Image: Operation Desert Storm.jpg., GFDL,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3502725>

1. Lillywhite LP., Leitch RA. Medical Support. Chapter 5 in: White, Martin. *Gulf War Logistics – Blackadder's War*. (London: RUSI/Brassey's, 1995)

2. *AMEDD in Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm* (special issues and articles in Journal of the US Army Medical Department, 1992 – 1995)

<http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/AMEDDinODS/ameddODS.html>

The Balkans (Former Yugoslavia, 1992 – 1995)

Following Marshal Tito's death in 1980, simmering tensions between the Yugoslav Republics worsened with the accession of the ultranationalist Slobodan Milosevic as the President of Serbia, and Slovenia and Croatia eventually declared independence on 25 June 1991. A two week war between the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Army and the Slovenian Defence Forces was followed by all out fighting in Croatia, with Serbian forces rapidly overrunning a third of the country before a ceasefire in January 1992. The UN then authorised the deployment of a multinational Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in a peacekeeping role.²¹ Britain contributed troops from March 1992 under Op HANWOOD and then Op GRAPPLE.

The initial British contribution to UNPROFOR was a British Medical Battalion. This consisted of 24 (Airmobile) Field Ambulance, commanded by Lt Col Lois Lodge, and a Medical Support Troop (MST 1, effectively a Role 2 Basic medical treatment facility) from 22 Field Hospital. The British eventually contributed the equivalent of a light brigade.

The Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, following a referendum that was boycotted by its minority Serbian population, declared independence on 6 April 1992. War immediately broke out, with first Serbia and then Croatia attempting to wrest land from the fledgling Bosnian state. UNPROFOR, with its restricted rules of engagement, was placed in an invidious position, despite committing more peacekeeping forces, as what was needed now was peace enforcement rather than peacekeeping. The nadir was the Srebrenica massacre on 11 July 1995.

The Dayton Agreement of 21 November 1995 brought fighting to an end. A robust NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) replaced UNPROFOR in a peace enforcement role on a one-year mandate, with the British contributing under Op RESOLUTE and the US under Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

IFOR was replaced by the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) from 20 December 1996 until 2004, the British contributing under Op LODESTAR, and the US under Operation JOINT GUARD / JOINT FORGE.

²¹ United Nations Security Council Resolution 743, dated 21 February 1992

From a medical perspective, the largest mass casualty incident dealt with by the British forces in Bosnia was a Czech Hip helicopter crash on 8 January 1998. 17 casualties (including six with severe injuries) were airlifted from the scene for treatment at the British Hospital Squadron in Sipovo before aeromedical evacuation to Prague or discharge from hospital.²²

18 British service personnel died while serving with UNPROFOR, the first being LCpl Wayne Edwards RWF in Gornji Vakuf on 13 January 1993, shot by a sniper. A total of 72 British service personnel died on active duty in the Balkans (including Kosovo) between 1992 and 2021, with 13 of them due to hostile action.

Recommended reading:

1. Rose, Michael. *Fighting for Peace – Bosnia 1994* (London: Harvill Press, 1998)
2. Stankovic, Milos. *Trusted Mole – A Soldier's Journey into Bosnia's Heart of Darkness* (London: HarperCollins, 2000)
3. Fox, Robert. *Bosnia and Kosovo, 1992-2000: Balkan Stew*. In: *The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945 – 2000* (Ed: Maj Gen Julian Thompson) (London: Pan Books, 2002)

Kosovo (Op AGRICOLA, 1999 – 2009)

Like Bosnia, Kosovo was part of the former Republic of Yugoslavia but, unlike Bosnia, which had been a separate republic, Kosovo was an autonomous province of Serbia. Kosovo housed the site of the Battle of Kosovo Polje of June 1389, of great symbolic significance to the Serb nation, but was disputed territory between Serbs and the Kosovar Albanians making up the vast majority of the population.

The separatist Kosovar Liberation Army commenced an armed rebellion in 1998, leading to months of increasingly brutal repression and a humanitarian refugee crisis. In January 1999, faced with evidence of genocide, the international community demanded that Belgrade either withdraw its army or face NATO bombing. Belgrade rejected these demands, and NATO began bombing Serbia in March 1999 – the alliance's first war – forcing Serbia to the negotiating table after 78 days.

On 11 June 1999, as NATO troops prepared to enter Kosovo, Russian forces moved swiftly to occupy Pristina airport, sparking fears of a Third World War as US and UK troops debated whether to oppose the Russian move. NATO moved into Kosovo on 12 June under UN Security Council Resolution 1244, rapidly enforcing peace. This came at a cost, with 3 British servicemen losing their lives to hostile action in the first 12 months of Op AGRICOLA while serving with Kosovo Force (KFOR).

²² Vassallo D J, Sargeant I D, Sadler P J, *et al*. Mass Casualty Incident at Hospital Squadron Sipovo, Bosnia following a Czech Hip Helicopter crash, 8 Jan 1998. *J Roy Army Med Corps* 1998;144: 61-66

Tensions remained high between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians. On 16 February 2001, Kosovar terrorists detonated a bomb under a Nis Express civilian coach carrying Serb pilgrims, resulting in the largest major medical incident dealt with by KFOR. 10 people were killed, 13 casualties were treated in the British KFOR hospital (Reynolds Hospital) in Pristina, and another 8 casualties were treated at the American KFOR hospital at Camp Bondsteel. This major incident provided a unique opportunity for co-operation between British, American, Russian, German and French KFOR hospitals, as well as with Serbian clinicians.²³

NATO peacekeeping forces, including UK and US forces, would remain in Kosovo for many more years, with British involvement (Op AGRICOLA) only ending in 2009.

Recommended reading:

1. Clark, Wesley. *Waging Modern War – Bosnia, Kosovo and the Future of Conflict* (Oxford: Public Affairs Ltd, 2001)
2. Bieber, Florian & Daskalovski, Zidas. *Understanding the War in Kosovo* (London: Frank Cass, 2003)
3. Jackson, Mike. *Command of Kosovo Force 1999* In: *British Generals in Blair's Wars*. Eds: Jonathan Bailey, Richard Iron & Hew Strachan (Farnham: Ashgate, 2013)

Sierra Leone, 2000 (Op PALLISER and Op BARRAS)

There had been civil war in Sierra Leone since 1991, with most of the country falling to rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), and its capital Freetown being captured in 1999, with thousands of civilians massacred, before Freetown was liberated and a ceasefire agreed. The UN despatched a peacekeeping force (UNAMSIL) but fighting flared again in early 2000. In May 2000, the RUF ambushed and captured a large number of Zambian UN troops together with their armoured personnel carriers, and advanced again on Freetown.

The Sierra Leone Government called for British assistance. The British responded under Operation PALLISER, despatching the Spearhead Battalion (then the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment, supported by a Role 2 Basic surgical capability), followed by a Royal Navy Task Force with Royal Marines to relieve them.²⁴

Op Palliser had started as a non-combatant rescue and evacuation mission, but broadened to bolster UNAMSIL and restore calm in Sierra Leone. The British military presence significantly changed the security situation, providing the necessary

²³ Vassallo DJ, Graham PJK, Gupta G, Alempijevic Dj. "Bomb explosion on the Nis Express" – Lessons from a major incident, Kosovo 16 Feb 2001. *J Roy Army Med Corps* 2005;**151**:19-29

²⁴ Vassallo D. Give me a Clue – Hot or Cold? A surgeon's memories of SPEARHEAD.
<https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/gow/>

catalyst to halt the fighting, and led to the defeat of the RUF, in the most successful of 'Blair's Wars'.

A patrol of British troops was captured and held hostage by a paramilitary group, the West Side Boys, in September 2000. They were released unharmed one week later in a spectacular rescue mission, under Op BARRAS. One British soldier was killed and 11 wounded during the rescue. The wounded were treated by a British Army field surgical team (including this author) on board RFA *Sir Percivale* in Freetown harbour before evacuation to the Royal Hospital Haslar (the last aeromedical evacuation to this hospital before UK Role 4 capability transferred to Birmingham).



Figure 8 Op BARRAS, 10 September 2000 (artist: David Rowlands)²⁵

Recommended reading:

1. Evoe, Patrick. *Operation PALLISER: The British military intervention into Sierra Leone, a case of a successful use of Western Military Interdiction in a sub-Sahara African civil war* (MA Thesis, Texas State University, 2008)
<https://digital.library.txstate.edu/bitstream/handle/10877/2602/fulltext.pdf?sequence=1>
2. Dorman, Andrew. *Blair's Successful War: British Military Intervention in Sierra Leone*. (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009)
3. Fowler, Will. *Certain Death in Sierra Leone – The SAS and Operation BARRAS 2000* (Oxford: Osprey, 2010)

²⁵ Op BARRAS (assault on Gberi Bana, Sierra Leone), reproduced with permission of military artist David Rowlands http://www.davidrowlands.co.uk/gallery/gal_detail.asp?varPaintCode=090

4. Richards, David. *Sierra Leone 2000: Pregnant with Lessons*. In: *British Generals in Blair's Wars*. Eds: Jonathan Bailey, Richard Iron & Hew Strachan (Farnham: Ashgate, 2013)

Afghanistan (primarily Op VERITAS and Op HERRICK), 2001 – 2014 (US: Operation ENDURING FREEDOM)

The momentous attacks of 11 September 2001 (9/11) by Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda organisation were the precipitating cause for major British military operations in support of the USA. These were primarily Operation VERITAS in Afghanistan (October 2001 – 2004), and Operation TELIC (2003 – 2009) and Operation HERRICK (2004 – 2014) in Iraq and Afghanistan respectively.

Once the Taliban regime in Afghanistan refused to surrender Osama bin Laden and his followers, British troops rapidly became engaged from October 2001 onwards under Op VERITAS and other operations as part of the US-led coalition against the Taliban.

Kabul (the capital) fell on 13 November and Kandahar (the Taliban's spiritual home) fell on 7 December 2001, with the remnants of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda retreating into northwest Pakistan. Hamid Karzai was then installed in Kabul as interim President, supported by the International Security Assistance Force [ISAF]. The US then shifted its attention in 2002 to Iraq.

In January 2003, the revitalised Taliban commenced an insurgency which gathered momentum throughout the summer, setting the pattern for future years.

In August 2003, NATO took on the leadership of ISAF, initially providing security around Kabul, before expanding ISAF's presence to cover the whole country by late 2006. At its height in early 2011 ISAF deployed more than 132,000 troops, with up to 51 NATO and partner nations contributing at various times.

In April 2004 the UK deployed a single light infantry battalion to provide security for ISAF in Kabul and in northern Afghanistan, under Ops FINGAL and TARROCK respectively.

Each of the British operations in Afghanistan was allocated its own codename until late 2004 – VERITAS (the initial contribution of air crews and Special Forces), ORACLE (incorporated within VERITAS), FINGAL (the UK contribution to ISAF in Kabul from December 2001, including initial leadership of ISAF) and TARROCK (the UK contribution to ISAF operations in Northern Afghanistan).

From 1 October 2004 the UK consolidated these codenames into one, Op HERRICK, covering all UK operations within the territory and airspace of Afghanistan. The codenames HERRICK 1-3 were assigned to the three six-month deployments of single infantry battalions between 1 October 2004 and 3 April 2006.

The UK land commitment in Afghanistan changed significantly with HERRICK 4 (April to October 2006), with the deployment of 3,300 troops under the command of

16 Air Assault Brigade into Helmand Province as part of the overall ISAF expansion throughout Afghanistan.

Thereafter, larger Brigade-strength roulements to Helmand occurred every six months until the end of 2014, with the maximum number of British troops in country reaching 9,500 throughout 2010 - 2012. The last deployment, HERRICK 20, formally ended in November 2014, with a few troops remaining thereafter on Op TORAL, to provide training at the new Afghan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul. The war ended ignominiously for the Allies in August 2021, when Kabul fell to the Taliban.²⁶

Deployed hospital care during Op HERRICK was provided at Camp Bastion, initially at a tented Role 2 Enhanced facility, and later at a purpose-built Role 3 multinational facility. Camp Bastion Hospital built up a world class reputation as a powerhouse of military medicine and surgery during its short existence, with many unexpected survivors owing their lives to the care they received there.^{27,28}

A total of 453 British servicemen and women would lose their lives during Op HERRICK. 405 of these were directly attributable to hostile action.²⁹ The US lost 2,346 service personnel on Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), of whom 1,843 were due to hostile action.³⁰



Figure 9 *Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial, London (detail) (photos: David Vassallo)*

²⁶ Vassallo D. Another date which will live in infamy – the day Kabul fell to the Taliban, Sunday 15 August 2021. <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/gow/>

²⁷ Vassallo D. A short history of Camp Bastion Hospital: the two hospitals and unit deployments. *J R Army Med Corps* 2015;161 (1):79-83 <https://militaryhealth.bmj.com/content/161/1/79>

²⁸ Vassallo D. A short history of Camp Bastion Hospital: part 2—Bastion's catalytic role in advancing combat casualty care. *J R Army Med Corps* 2015; 161 (2):160-166 <https://militaryhealth.bmj.com/content/161/2/160>

²⁹ Op HERRICK casualty and fatality tables <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/op-herrick-casualty-and-fatality-tables-index>

³⁰ DeBruyne, Nese. *American War and Military Operations - Casualties: Lists and Statistics* (Congressional Research Service, updated 29 July 2020) <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/RL32492.pdf>



Figure 10 'Duty and Service', Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial, London

(Unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen, 9 March 2017)³¹

Recommended reading:

1. Neville, Leigh. *The British Army in Afghanistan 2006 – 14. Task Force Helmand* (Osprey Publishing, 2015)
2. Reynolds, David. *Afghanistan – Britain's War in Helmand – An Historical Account* (Plymouth: DRA Publishing, 2017)
3. Farrell, Theo. *Unwinnable – Britain's War in Afghanistan 2001 – 2014* (London: The Bodley Head, 2017)
4. Vassallo, David. *A brief history of Operations TELIC and HERRICK*, in: *Medical Lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan* (Ed: Ian Greaves; London: CRC Press, 2019). See <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/op-telic-and-op-herrick/>

³¹ *Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial unveiled in London* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/iraq-and-afghanistan-memorial-unveiled-in-london>. The Memorial recognises the contributions of the UK Armed Forces and all UK citizens who deployed in the Gulf region, Iraq and Afghanistan from 1990 – 2015 and those who supported them at home. 682 UK Service personnel lost their lives in these three conflicts.

Iraq, March 2003 – May 2009 (Op TELIC) (US: *Operation IRAQI FREEDOM*)

Saddam Hussein had hung onto power in Iraq after his forces had been evicted from Kuwait in 1991. With the Taliban apparently defeated in Afghanistan after 9/11, though the hunt for Osama bin Laden carried on, the US focus in its 'War on Terror' shifted in 2002 to unfinished business in Iraq, even though Saddam's regime had nothing to do with 9/11. On 12 September 2002, one year after 9/11, President George W Bush formally began arguing the case at the UN for a pre-emptive invasion of Iraq, on the basis that Saddam Hussein's government was violating UN resolutions, primarily on weapons of mass destruction. Just days later, Prime Minister Tony Blair outlined the apparent threat posed by Iraq through its weapons of mass destruction, for debate at the House of Commons.

This led to intense diplomatic pressure on Iraq, strengthened by a massive build-up of US forces in the Gulf. Frustrated by the lack of consensus at the UN Security Council, the US and UK eventually decided to proceed with military action on their own, together with Australia. The coalition forces invaded Iraq on the night of 20 March 2003, with near-simultaneous ground and air offensives, with the US and UK operating under Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Op TELIC respectively.

At the peak of major combat operations in spring 2003, the UK had a total of 46,000 military personnel deployed in Iraq, including 28,000 on land. Almost a third of the British Army deployed to the Gulf within the first six months of Op TELIC. This included over 5,000 Territorial Army and Regular Reservists, the largest number called up since the Suez crisis in 1956. Combat operations ceased in May.

Following 1st (UK) Armoured Division's deployment on TELIC 1, there would be a further 12 Brigade-sized deployments to southern Iraq (centred on Basra Province), each of six months' duration. After the initial entry operation, British forces became embroiled in intense counter-insurgency operations against resurgent Shiite militias (TELIC 2 – 9), until the tables were turned on the militias by concerted Iraqi and Allied intervention in 2008 (Operation Charge of the Knights). The final deployments (TELIC 10 – 13) concentrated on stabilisation operations and training of Iraqi forces, until the operation was brought to a close in May 2009 (at the end of TELIC 13) under the pressure of Britain struggling to sustain two brigade-sized operations simultaneously in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The medical support to British troops during Op TELIC has been described elsewhere (see Recommended Reading and Medical Support to Op TELIC, below).

A total of 179 British Armed Forces personnel or MOD civilians lost their lives during Op TELIC, 136 of them through hostile action.³² US Forces suffered 4,411 fatalities during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, 3,481 of them through hostile action.³³

Recommended reading:

1. Murray, Williamson & Scales, Robert. *The Iraq War – A Military History* (Harvard University Press, 2003)
2. Cordesman, Anthony. *The Iraq War – Strategy, Tactics and Military Lessons* (Westport: Praeger Publishers, 2003)
3. Ripley, Tim. *Operation TELIC – The British Campaign in Iraq 2003 – 2009* (Telic-Herrick Publications, 2016) www.operationtelic.co.uk
4. Vassallo, David. *A brief history of Operations TELIC and HERRICK*, in: *Medical Lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan* (London: Constable & Robinson, 2019). See <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/op-telic-and-op-herrick/>

Medical Support to Op TELIC:

1. Rew, David. *Blood, Heat + Dust – Operation Telic and the British Medical Deployment to the Gulf 2003 – 2009*. See <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/op-telic-and-op-herrick/>
2. Vassallo, David. *The organisation of the Medical Services during Operations TELIC and HERRICK*, in: *Medical Lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan* (Ed: Ian Greaves; London: CRC Press, 2019). See <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/op-telic-and-op-herrick/>

³² Ministry of Defence – *UK Armed Forces Deaths: Operational deaths post World War II (3 September 1945 to 28 February 2021)* (MOD Annual Report, 25 March 2021) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2-2021>

³³ DeBruyne, Nese. *American War and Military Operations - Casualties: Lists and Statistics* (Congressional Research Service, updated 29 July 2020) <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/RL32492.pdf>

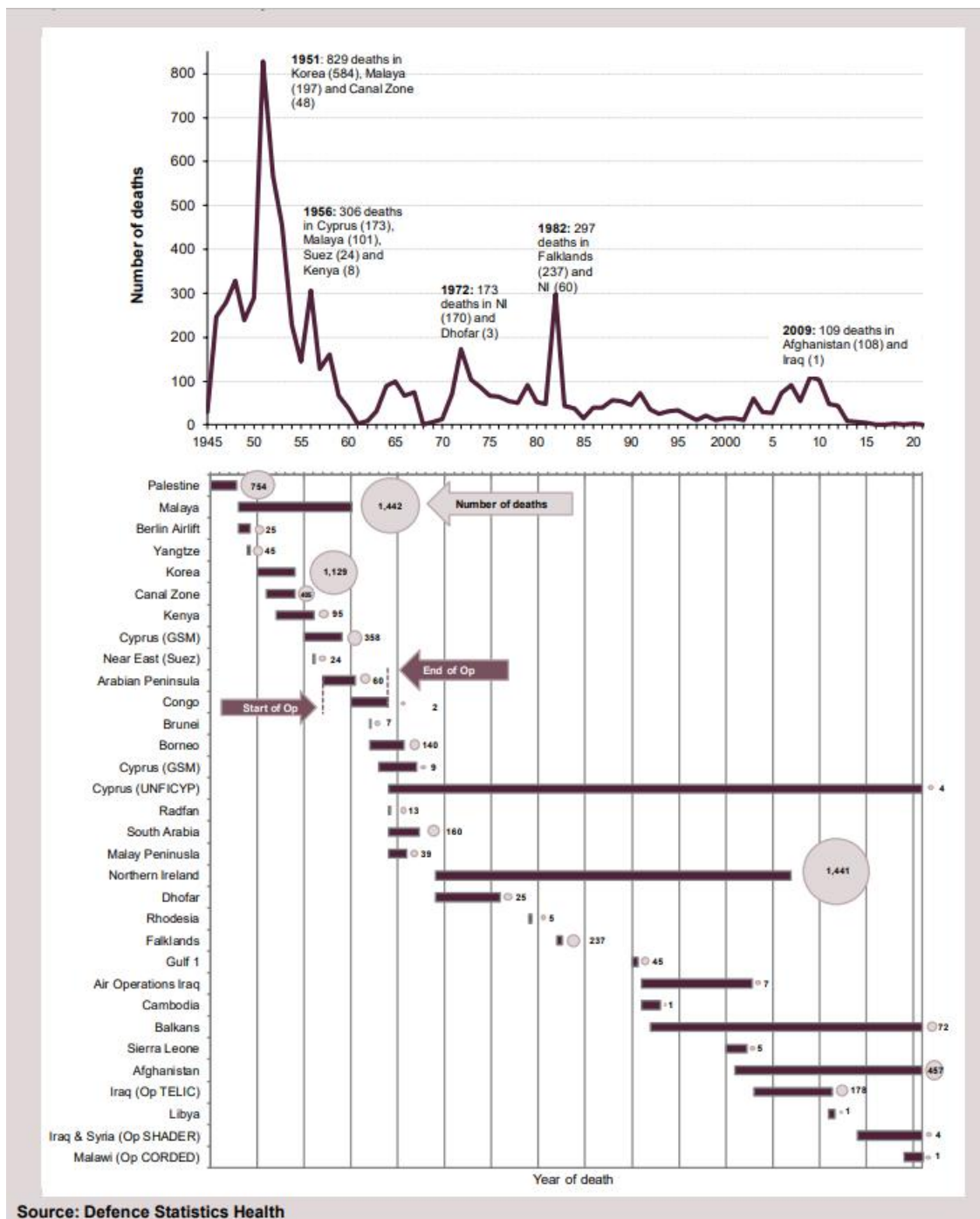


Figure 11 UK Armed Forces Operational deaths since World War II, by year (MOD)³⁴

³⁴ Ministry of Defence – UK Armed Forces Deaths: Operational deaths post World War II (3 September 1945 to 28 February 2021) (MOD Annual Report, 25 March 2021)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2-2021>

Military conflicts involving the US since 1945

Table 2: Significant US Operations since the Second World War (British involvement indicated by *)

(Excluding primarily aerial bombing or cruise missile operations; humanitarian relief operations (e.g. response to Hurricanes, Tsunamis, Famine, Flooding or Earthquakes); Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO); hostage rescue missions apart from Iran Embassy, 1980; anti-drug operations)

Area, date and official name	Description	Type of conflict (State-on-state or intra-state)	US military casualty toll ^{35,36}
Berlin airlift*, 1948		State-on-state	
Korea*, 1950 – 1953	UN Operations - Korean conflict	State-on-state	Over 36,600 US military were killed in Korea
Lebanon, 1958 (<i>Operation Blue Bat</i>)	US military deployment in support of Lebanese Government – the first US invasion in the Middle East	Intra-state	One fatality
Vietnam, 1959 – 1975 (US involvement)	Internationalised civil war	State-on-state	58,220 deaths; over 153,000 wounded or ill required hospital care
Cuba, 1961	Bay of Pigs Invasion (an unsuccessful military invasion of Cuba by CIA-sponsored Cuban rebels (paramilitary group Brigade 2506) on 17 April 1961	State-on-state	
Cuban missile crisis, 1962	Superpower standoff	State-on-state	
Laos, 1962 - 1975	The US provides military support to anti-Communist forces in Laos. 1969 - 1970: President Nixon is determined to end the Vietnam war and shows his willingness to escalate it to achieve his ends, by sanctioning secret US B-52 bombing campaign along Ho Chi Minh trail in Cambodia and Laos.	State-on-state	Incorporated within Vietnam figures
Dominican Republic, 1965 (<i>Operation POWER PACK</i>)	Invasion of Dominican Republic by 20,000 US troops to protect lives and property during a Dominican revolt	State-on-state	43 deaths
Israel, 1967 (USS Liberty incident)	A US Navy Technical Research Ship was attacked June 8, 1967 by Israeli		34 killed, more than 170 crewmen injured

³⁵ Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/main.xhtml>

³⁶ DeBruyne, Nese. *American War and Military Operations - Casualties: Lists and Statistics* (Congressional Research Service, updated 29 July 2020) <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/RL32492.pdf>

	armed forces		
Cambodia, 1970 (30 April – 30 June)	US troops attack sanctuaries from which Viet Cong and North Vietnamese had been attacking US and South Vietnamese forces in Vietnam.	State-on-state	Incorporated within Vietnam figures
Iran, 25 April 1980 (Operation EAGLE CLAW)	Iranian hostage rescue mission – unsuccessful airborne attempt to rescue American hostages in Teheran Embassy		8 deaths (non-hostile causes)
Lebanon, (25 August 1982 – 26 February 1984)	Peacekeeping mission		265 deaths (263 from hostile action)
Grenada, 1983 (Operation URGENT FURY)	US invasion of Grenada following a coup d'état aligning the island with the Soviet Union and Cuba	State-on-state	19 deaths (18 from hostile action)
Panama, 1989 (Operation JUST CAUSE)	US invasion of Panama Canal Zone	State-on-state	23 deaths (all from hostile action)
Kuwait*, 1990 - 1991 (Persian Gulf War) (Operation DESERT SHIELD / DESERT STORM)	Liberation of Kuwait after Iraqi invasion	State-on-state	383 deaths (148 from hostile action)
Somalia, 1992 – 1994 (Operation RESTORE HOPE)		Intra-state	43 deaths (29 from hostile action)
Haiti, 1994 – 1996 (Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY)		State-on-state	4 deaths (non-hostile causes)
Afghanistan*, 2001 - 2014 (Operation ENDURING FREEDOM)	Invasion of Afghanistan, subsequent counter-insurgency	State-on-state and intra-state conflict	2,346 deaths (1,843 from hostile action)
Iraq*, 2003 - 2011 (Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, 2003 – 31 August 2010; Operation NEW DAWN, 1 September 2010 – 2011)	US-UK Invasion of Iraq & subsequent counter-insurgency	State-on-state and intra-state conflict	4,411 deaths (3,481 from hostile action)
Libya*, 2011 (Operation ODYSSEY DAWN)	Aerial bombing campaign against Libyan government forces, enforcing UN Security Council Resolution 1973	State-on-state and intra-state conflict	No US deaths
Iraq* (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, (ISIL), 2014 onwards (Operation INHERENT RESOLVE)	Ongoing US-led military coalition supporting Iraqi Security Forces against ISIL. Kinetic operations started August 1, 2014.	Intra-state	96 deaths (21 from hostile action) (as of July 2020)
Afghanistan (2015 - 2021) (Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL)	Security operations in support of Afghan National Security Forces	Intra-state	93 deaths (64 from hostile action) (as of July 2020)

Selected Conflicts involving the US since 1945

With so many operations involving US forces between 1945 and 2017,³⁷ some have had to be omitted from this account, such as the Berlin airlift of 1948, and current operations, such as the ongoing operations against Daesh (so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIL) in Iraq and Syria, against Al-Qaeda, and the recently concluded war against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The following narrative covers only those conflicts where the UK was not involved.

Lebanon, 1958 (*Operation Blue Bat*)

Lebanon, in common with many Middle East countries, suffered great internal turmoil in the late 1950s, during the Cold War, as the Soviet Union tried to spread communism around the world. Lebanon was threatened by internal rebel movements, strengthened by Egyptian and Syrian infiltrators, as well as by Syrian armed forces massing on its border. On 14 July 1958, President Camille Chamoun of Lebanon appealed urgently to the governments of France, Britain and the United States to deploy military forces to Lebanon to stabilise the situation.

This message became the first test of the Eisenhower Doctrine, announced in January 1957, whereby the US had declared that it would intervene militarily if requested by any country facing attack by another country under the control of international communism, to help preserve its independence.

Within hours of receiving this appeal, US President Dwight D Eisenhower had authorised the Mediterranean Sixth Fleet to deploy eastwards to land Marines in Lebanon, and US forces in Europe and the Tactical Air Command in the US had been alerted to prepare for immediate military action. These actions marked the beginning of Operation 'Blue Bat', the first US airborne-amphibious operation to occur in peacetime, and the first American invasion in the Middle East.

By 16 July, over 3,000 Marines had landed unopposed, deploying into Beirut, to be followed within days by over 7,000 more troops, in a massive and immediately effective show of force. The commander of the Lebanese Army, General Fuad Shهاب, was elected President on 31 July and inaugurated on 23 September, with order being restored, such that US forces departed within three months. US forces only sustained one battle death, while no civilian casualties resulted from US actions.

³⁷ Wikipedia - *Timeline of United States military operations*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_United_States_military_operations

Many of the logistical problems encountered in the 1958 Lebanon deployment were encountered again in Grenada 25 years later, and the lessons learned from each remain pertinent to contingency operations today.

Recommended reading:

1. Wade, Gary H. *Rapid Deployment Logistics: Lebanon, 1958* (US Army Command and General Staff College: Combat Studies Institute, Research Survey No. 3, 1984) <http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/carl/download/csipubs/RapidDeploymentLogistics.pdf>

Vietnam War, 1959 – 1975

This war is the greatest example of an internationalised civil war since 1945. Its origins lie in the French Indochina War (1946 – 1954) which ended with Vietnam divided into a Communist north and a non-Communist south. After a brief respite, in 1957 the Viet Cong (Vietnamese Communists, also known as VC) began a terrorist campaign in the south, and this insurgency soon grew into an international war directly involving in combat North Vietnam, the United States, Laos, Cambodia, South Korea, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand, though not the UK.

US military aid to the South Vietnamese regime started in January 1955, though it would not be until 22 October 1957 that the first American GIs were wounded, by terrorist bombs in Saigon. The Viet Cong began battalion-size attacks against the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) in July 1959 and the first American soldiers were killed that month (8 July). The US Department of Defense formally began counting Americans Killed in Action (KIAs) on 1 January 1961, and the first American operational units began deploying in December 1961 in advisory and support roles.

In August 1964, North Vietnamese patrol boats allegedly attacked US destroyers in the controversial Gulf of Tonkin incident, presenting US President Lyndon Johnson with an excuse to start bombing North Vietnam 'in retaliation', in Operation Pierce Arrow – the preliminary round to Operation Rolling Thunder (1965 – 1968), history's longest and heaviest strategic air bombardment of one nation against another. On 8 March 1965 US Marines went ashore at Da Nang, initiating eight years of US ground combat operations.

The War can be considered in phases: the initial terrorist insurgency of 1957 – 1959, followed by larger scale battles against the ARVN 1959 – 1961, and the US Advisory War 1961 – 1964 which ended with North Vietnam committing regular army units into combat in support of the Viet Cong. US Ground Operations commenced in 1965, with the Johnson administration deciding on a strategy of 'graduated response' – a gradually increasing commitment of US forces rather than the alternative favoured by the joint chiefs of staff, that of all-out decisive attack.

The next few years saw offensives by each side, the most dramatic and significant being the surprise countrywide Tet Offensive by some 84,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong which commenced on the night of 29 January 1968. Despite inflicting heavy Allied losses, this offensive ended a month later in decisive battlefield defeat for the Communist forces.

Strategically, however, the Tet Offensive was a political and moral victory for the Communist forces, the turning point in the campaign, destroying American confidence and her resolve to stay in a seemingly endless fight. President Johnson decided not to run for another term in office, and Richard Nixon was elected as President later that year firmly resolved to end US involvement in Vietnam. He initiated a process of Vietnamization, building up ARVN strength while gradually withdrawing US troops over the next four years, with the last US combat battalion eventually leaving on 12 August 1972.

The first real test of Vietnamization came when North Vietnam launched a massive Easter Offensive on 30 March 1972 against the ARVN across the old De-Militarised Zone. Massive US air and naval firepower helped blunt the attack as well as provide critical support to the South Vietnamese Counteroffensive. A ceasefire was proclaimed on 27 January 1973, and by 29 March 1973 the last US servicemen had been withdrawn (other than those at the US Embassy) – but the war was not over.

The ceasefire broke down almost immediately, with the two Vietnams continuing their internecine conflict (the Cease-Fire War, 1973 – 1974). With the war-weary US Congress greatly reducing the flow of war materiel to the south, and the North Vietnamese Army strength steadily growing, there could only be one outcome.

North Vietnamese forces commenced a major offensive in the Central Highlands in March 1975. Helicopters evacuated US Embassy staff from Saigon, and on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese T-62 tanks crashed through the gates of Saigon's Presidential Palace, dramatically ending the war.

58,220 US service personnel lost their lives during the Vietnam War – they are commemorated individually on the Vietnam War Memorial, 'The Wall', in Washington DC, dedicated in 1982. Over 153,300 were wounded.



Figure 12 Vietnam War Memorial, Washington DC

(With acknowledgements to Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, <http://www.vvmf.org>)

Recommended reading:

1. Vietnam War US Army Official History (33 volumes)
<https://history.army.mil/html/books/090/90-16/index.html>
2. Lawrence, Mark Attwood. *The Vietnam War – A Concise International History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)
3. Clodfelter, Michael. *Vietnam War*, in: *Warfare and Armed Conflicts – A Statistical Encyclopaedia of Casualty and other Figures, 1494 – 2007* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co, 3rd edition, 2008)
4. *Special Report: Vietnam* (Warminster: British Army Review [Learning from Conflict series] 2017)

Medical Support:

1. Neel, Spurgeon. *Vietnam Studies – Medical Support 1965 – 1970* (Washington DC: United States Army Medical Department, Center of Military History, 1973 (CMH Pub 90-16), re-issued 1991) <https://history.army.mil/html/books/090/90-16/index.html>
2. Dorland, Peter & Nanney, James. *Dust Off: Army Aeromedical Evacuation in Vietnam* (Washington DC: United States Army Medical Department, Center of Military History, 1982)
<http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/vietnam/dustoff/default.html>

Cuba, 1961 (Bay of Pigs Invasion)

A left-wing revolution in Cuba had ended in 1959 with the establishment of a new government under Premier Fidel Castro, who immediately severed ties with the US and began developing links with the Soviet Union. In March 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower directed the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to plan for the invasion of Cuba and overthrow of the Castro regime. The CIA began training and funding a force of exiled counter-revolutionary Cubans, known as Brigade 2506, for this.

Following his election in November 1960, President John F. Kennedy gave his consent for the invasion to go ahead. The attack went wrong almost from the start. The exiles of Brigade 2506 landed at the Bay of Pigs on 17 April 1961 and were defeated within two days by Cuban armed forces under the direct command of Castro.

Recommended reading:

1. Office of the Historian (USA Department of State) *The Bay of Pigs Invasion and its Aftermath, April 1961 – October 1962* <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs>

Laos, 1962 – 1975

This was essentially an extension of the Vietnam War, with ARVN, US and Thai forces attempting to interdict the supply line (the Ho Chi Minh Trail) running from North Vietnam through the jungles of Laos to the Viet Cong in South Vietnam.

Dominican Republic, 1965 (Operation POWER PACK)

The Dominican Republic shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with the nation of Haiti, strategically placed in the centre of the Caribbean basin. In the 1960s, at the height of the Cold War, America was concerned lest the region come under communist control. On 24 April 1965, Communist-inspired insurgents unexpectedly deposed the Dominican leader, Donald Reid y Cabral, quickly overwhelming the Dominican security forces.

President Lyndon B. Johnson, stating the need to protect American lives and property, directed the US military to deploy to the Dominican Republic to prevent the country from falling to the communists. This would be the first test of the Army's new ROAD Concept (Reorganization Objective Army Division) of flexible, deployable forces capable of responding to multiple contingencies.

A task force comprised of US Marines and the 82nd Airborne Division began deploying on 28 April, rapidly stabilising the country. Ultimately, more than 40,000 US troops would participate in Operation POWER PACK.

By September 1965, a provisional Dominican government had been established, and preparations begun for elections to re-establish a legitimate government. Most security operations were transferred to a Latin American military task force led by Brazil. One year later, all American forces had left the country, having demonstrated the success of the ROAD concept, and setting the precedent for future US contingency operations, most notably the 1994 intervention in Haiti.

Recommended reading:

1. O'Shea, Brendan. *OPERATION POWER PACK - U.S. Military Intervention in the Dominican Republic* (U.S. Army Peace Keeping and Stability Operations Institute, 20 April 2010)
www.army.mil/article/37660/operation_power_pack_us_military_intervention_in_the_dominican_republic
2. McPherson, D.G. *The Role of the Army Medical Service in the Dominican Republic Crisis of 1965* (Washington DC: Office of the Surgeon General, undated)
<http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/misc/domrep/default.html>

Cambodia, 1970 (30 April – 30 June)

The Vietnam War became truly a Second Indochina War in 1970 when the ground war expanded into Cambodia, following the previous year's B-52 heavy bombing strikes against North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong (NVA-VC) bases and sanctuaries in Cambodia.

Cambodia's Prince Sihanouk was toppled from power during a trip abroad, on 18 March 1970, by General Lon Nol. Within days, the Khmer Rouge (Cambodia's communists), backed by the NVA-VC, were in open conflict against the new government. By mid-April, South Vietnam's forces had launched ground attacks against the NVA-VC sanctuaries, joined by US forces from 30 April. By 6 May, some 30,000 US troops and 48,000 ARVN soldiers had penetrated 22 miles into Cambodia, with the NVA-VC largely evading contact by fleeing deeper into the country, before the US-ARVN forces withdrew on 30 June.

Recommended reading:

1. Clodfelter, Michael. *Cambodian Campaign (Vietnam War)*, in: *Warfare and Armed Conflicts – A Statistical Encyclopaedia of Casualty and other Figures, 1494 – 2007* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co, 3rd edition, 2008)

Lebanon, 25 August 1982 – 26 February 1984

Following Israel's invasion of Lebanon on 6 June 1982 in response to attacks launched from there by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and Syria's deployment of missiles into Lebanon, US President Ronald Reagan's administration feared that this would lead to an all-out Arab-Israeli war. Reagan authorised the deployment of US Marines into Lebanon as part of a multinational force, alongside French and Italian troops. The intention was to help the Lebanese Government take control over West Beirut, as a prelude to Israeli and Syrian withdrawal.

The suicide bombing of the Marines barracks in Beirut on 23 October 1983, killing 241 American servicemen, coupled with congressional opposition and the lack of diplomatic progress, precipitated the withdrawal of the US from Lebanon soon afterwards, in February 1984.

Recommended reading:

1. Office of the Historian. *The Reagan Administration and Lebanon, 1981 – 1984* (USA Department of State) <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1981-1988/lebanon>

Grenada, 1983 (Operation URGENT FURY)

A coup d'état in 1979 had aligned the small Caribbean island of Grenada with the Soviet Union and Cuba, adding to concerns in the USA about increasing Soviet influence in the region, especially when Cuban military reservists began construction of an excessively large new international airport in Grenada.

An internal power struggle between Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard resulted in bloody riots in autumn 1983 and the execution on 19 October of Prime Minister Bishop by his own military. Confronted with this rapidly deteriorating political situation, the perceived need to deal firmly with Soviet and Cuban influence in the Caribbean, and the potential for several hundred US students on the island becoming hostages, President Reagan decided to launch an invasion to evacuate non-combatants.

The US military was thereby thrown into a very short notice joint force contingency operation, the first since the end of the Vietnam War, involving many specialized units from different Services who had very little practical experience of working with one another. On 25 October, an air drop of Rangers to seize the main airfield, together with a US Marines helicopter assault onto a secondary airport, initiated the invasion by the 82nd Airborne Division and other forces.

Unexpectedly strong Cuban and Grenadian resistance was met in the first two days. All resistance was overcome soon afterwards, with the revolutionary government leaders being captured on 29 October, and an interim government established.

In addition to the unexpectedly strong resistance, a host of errors in joint planning, intelligence, communications, and logistics highlighted the dangers of even small contingency operations, with many of the logistic problems encountered in Lebanon in 1958 recurring here. The aftermath of Operation Joint Fury would see a major reorganisation of the US Armed Forces that placed a strong emphasis on joint operational planning.

A total of 581 American students and over 100 other foreign nationals were evacuated during this operation. US forces handed over to a multinational Caribbean Peacekeeping Force on 15 December 1983.

19 US soldiers were killed and 116 wounded during the brief combat of Operation Urgent Fury. In addition, 25 Cubans were killed and 59 wounded, together with 45 Grenadians killed and 358 wounded.

Recommended reading:

1. Stewart, Richard W. *Operation Urgent Fury – The Invasion of Grenada, October 1983* (Chief of Military History, CMH Pub 70–114–1)
https://history.army.mil/html/books/grenada/urgent_fury.pdf

Panama, 1989 (Operation JUST CAUSE)

Ever since it opened in 1914, the Panama Canal has been of great strategic importance to the US, which maintained military bases in the Canal Zone to ensure its neutrality and the safe passage of US ships until handover to Panama in 2000.

In 1977, US President Jimmy Carter and the Panamanian leader, General Torrijos, signed treaties agreeing to hand over the Canal to Panamanian control by 2000. General Torrijos was succeeded by the dictator General Noriega, who for many years had been secretly paid by the CIA to buy his loyalty. However, Noriega began to shift his allegiance towards the Soviet bloc during the mid-1980s, especially after he was exposed and indicted in the US for drug trafficking, so the US began planning for a potential invasion to secure the Canal.

Noriega held onto power by force in 1989 despite an election to unseat him, and also survived a coup attempt. President Bush refused to deal with him due to his drug-trafficking, and reinforced the US bases. On 15 December 1989, the Panamanian Assembly declared that a state of war existed between Panama and the USA, and the next day a US Marine was killed at a road block. President Bush then authorised the invasion plan, which commenced on 20 December. Bush gave four reasons to justify the invasion – protecting the 35,000 US citizens living in Panama, defending democracy and human rights, combating drug trafficking, and protecting the integrity of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and the neutrality of the Panama Canal.

Operation JUST CAUSE involved over 27,500 US troops (including 13,000 already in country) and 300 aircraft, against the greatly outnumbered Panamanian Defence Forces, swiftly overwhelming them and achieving their objectives, and deposing Noriega. This was a conventional contingency operation, under extremely advantageous circumstances, but which still provided the US with valuable lessons for future operations. The US eventually withdrew as agreed by the year 2000.

The Operation saw several firsts for the US military, including the first deployment of the whole of the 75th Ranger Regiment, with airborne drops onto two Panamanian airfields spearheading the largest airborne assault since 1945, the first use of the now-ubiquitous HMMWV (Humvee) vehicle, the first (and only) airborne drop of the M551 Sheridan tank, the first bombing missions of the F-117 Stealth Bomber, and the first combat deployment of the AH-64 Apache helicopter.³⁸

Recommended reading:

1. Donnelly, Thomas; Roth, Margaret; Baker, Caleb. *Operation JUST CAUSE – The Storming of Panama* (New York: Lexington Books, 1991)
2. *Operation JUST CAUSE – The Planning and Execution of Joint Operations in Panama February 1988 – January 1990* (Joint History Office, 1995) http://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB443/docs/area51_22.PDF
3. Taw, Jennifer Morrison. *Operation Just Cause – Lessons for Operations Other Than War* (RAND, 1996) <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a317901.pdf>

Somalia, 1992 – 1994 (Operation RESTORE HOPE)

Following a military revolution in Somalia in 1991, inter-clan warfare led to widespread anarchy and famine, with over 300,000 Somalis dying of starvation in 1991 – 1992. The UN called for assistance, and in December 1992, in his last days as President, George Bush proposed that the US initially lead a UN intervention force to allow food aid to get through. The UN accepted this offer and 25,000 US troops were deployed to Somalia on what was intended to be a short term mission, Operation RESTORE HOPE, which rapidly brought about a temporary truce from the anarchy. The UN took over the lead in March 1993, aiming to promote nation building. Bill Clinton, the new US President, rapidly scaled down the US deployment as more UN troops arrived, such that only 1,200 US troops remained by June.

The truce was shattered on 5 June 1993, when 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were ambushed and killed. The UN, under Resolution 837, authorised a US-led mission to

³⁸ Elphick, James. 7 important military firsts from Operation Just Cause
<http://www.wearethemighty.com/articles/7-important-military-firsts-from-operation-just-cause>

apprehend the Somali factions responsible and restore stability, and in August, the US deployed a 440-man strong Joint Operations Task Force, 'Task Force Ranger'. Task Force Ranger immediately commenced multiple raids to capture the faction leaders and destroy their command infrastructure.

One such raid, on 3 – 4 October 1993, went badly wrong, after 140 US Rangers and Delta Force commandos abseiled from helicopters into a market neighbourhood in the heart of Mogadishu, the Somali capital. US forces sustained 18 dead and 84 wounded during prolonged firefights (later named 'The Battle of Mogadishu'), mainly during rescue attempts after two Black Hawk helicopters were downed. The wounded were treated at the 46th Combat Support Hospital (46th CSH, the only US hospital in theatre, situated in the Embassy Compound) and a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility (MASF), before aeromedical evacuation to definitive care in US hospitals in Germany. The Somalis reportedly lost 312 killed and 814 injured.

The political fallout from the Battle of Mogadishu (particularly after photos of dead Americans being dragged through the streets were shown on the media) was exacerbated two days later by another mass casualty situation. This arose from a mortar strike on 6 October on US troops, resulting in one fatality and 18 injured, several critically so.³⁹

The US pulled its forces out of Somalia early in 1994, and the UN wrapped up its unsuccessful mission by 1 March 1995, by which time the UN had lost 132 dead from all causes, including 43 Americans. US battle casualties were 30 Killed in Action and 175 Wounded in Action.⁴⁰

Recommended reading:

1. Bowden, Mark. *Black Hawk Down* (New York: Bantam Press, 1999)
2. Snyder, R. *1993 Operation Restore Hope/Battle of Mogadishu* (History 135, 2001) <http://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/evans/his135/Events/Somalia93/somalia93.html>

Haiti, 1994 – 1996 (Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY)

The US intervention in Haiti had its origins in a military coup on 30 September 1991, when Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras overthrew the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first popularly elected president in Haitian history.

³⁹ Volpe, Philip. *"Medic! Medic!" – A Personal Experience Monograph* (US Army War College: 1996) (kindly supplied to the author by David W Cannon, Lessons Learned Analyst, US Army)

⁴⁰ *Somalia, 1992 – 1995*. In: Clodfelter, Michael. *Warfare and Armed Conflicts – A Statistical Encyclopaedia of Casualty and other Figures, 1494 – 2007* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co, 3rd edition, 2008), pp.595 - 596

UN pressure led to an agreement between Aristide and Cedras in 1993 whereby Aristide would return to Haiti, but the Haitian military regime reneged on the deal. A mob turned away a US ship that arrived at Port-au-Prince on 11 October to set up arrangements to receive Aristide, with President Bill Clinton's administration being unwilling to risk casualties barely a week after the tragic Battle of Mogadishu.

The UN Security Council responded with a naval blockade, while the US planned a military intervention should diplomatic efforts fail to remove Haiti's military regime. On 31 July 1994, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 940, the first resolution to authorise the use of force to restore democracy for a member nation. It provided for the reinstatement of the Aristide government and a six-month mandate for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), to maintain order after the operation.

On 19 September 1994, while last-minute diplomatic negotiations by former US President Jim Carter were still underway, the US and a Caribbean multinational force launched Operation Uphold Democracy. The invasion force numbered nearly 25,000 military personnel, backed by two aircraft carriers and extensive air support, with the US providing the vast majority of the forces.

The invasion forces launched without any certainty whether they would make an opposed or a peaceful landing on to Haitian soil. Fortunately, the Haitian leadership capitulated in time to avoid bloodshed. General Hugh Shelton, commander of the invasion force, was re-roled en route to Haiti as a diplomat, charged with working out a peaceful transition of power. He met Cedras on 20 September to begin the process, and Aristide returned to Haiti on 15 October 1994. The operation ended with transfer to UNMIH command on 31 March 1995. A presidential election and a peaceful transfer of power from the UN occurred on 7 February 1996.

There were four US fatalities during the operation, all from non-hostile causes.⁴¹

Recommended reading:

1. Kretchik WE, Baumann RF, Fishel JT. *Invasion, Intervention, 'Intervasion': A Concise History of the US Army in Operation Uphold Democracy* (Kansas: US Army Command and Staff College Press, 1998)
<http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/carl/download/csipubs/kretchikw.pdf>
2. *Intervention in Haiti, 1994 – 1995* (United States Department of State: Office of the Historian, Bureau of Public Affairs) <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1993-2000/haiti>

⁴¹ DeBruyne, Nese. *American War and Military Operations - Casualties: Lists and Statistics* (Congressional Research Service, updated 29 July 2020) <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/RL32492.pdf>

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1. Clodfelter, Michael. *Warfare and Armed Conflicts – A Statistical Encyclopaedia of Casualty and other Figures, 1494 – 2007* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co, 3rd edition, 2008)
2. Ministry of Defence – *UK Armed Forces Deaths: Operational deaths post World War II (3 September 1945 to 28 February 2021)* (MOD Annual Report, 25 March 2021) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2-2021>
3. *The Imperial War Museum Book of Modern Warfare – British and Commonwealth Forces at War 1945 – 2000* (London: Pan Books, 2003) (Ed: Maj Gen Julian Thompson)
4. DeBruyne, Nese. *American War and Military Operations - Casualties: Lists and Statistics* (Congressional Research Service, updated 29 July 2020) <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/RL32492.pdf>
5. *America's Wars Fact Sheet – Veterans' Affairs* (November 2020) https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/fs_americas_wars.pdf
6. Wikipedia - *Timeline of United States military operations* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_United_States_military_operations

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Declaration of interest

The author, Colonel (ret'd) David Vassallo FRCSEd, DHMSA, MA (History of Warfare), L/RAMC, is a retired consultant general surgeon who served 34 years in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He is currently Chairman, Friends of Millbank, whose aim is to celebrate the heritage, achievements, and ongoing relevance of military medicine. We organise monthly online talks on military medical history topics. Membership is open to all. www.friendsofmillbank.org

