

MODERN WAR

MILITARY HISTORY IN THE MAKING

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Dien Bien Phu:
Decisive Battle for Indochina
On 8 May 1953 Gen. Henri-Eugene Navarre assumed command of French forces in Indochina. If he was to be able to save the situation, he was going to have to do something dramatic. He decided he would try to lure the Viet Minh into a huge trap.
by Timothy J. Kutta

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Operation Vulture:
Decisive Battle for Indochina
By the first week of April 1954 it was apparent the French base at Dien Bien Phu would fall unless it was relieved from outside. A rescue plan was circulated in the corridors of power in Paris and Washington, calling for a massive US air strike against the Viet Minh besiegers' positions. It was codenamed for a carrion eater—Operation Vulture.
by Joseph Miranda

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Kolwezi 1978:
Legionnaires to the Rescue
As the French withdrew from their colonial empire in the 1960s, many Foreign Legion units were disbanded or reassigned to metropolitan France. Even so, the Legion found new missions, and one was as part of a global intervention force. Its 2 Regiment Etranger Parachutiste (Foreign Parachute Regiment, abbreviated 2REP) would see action in Africa in 1978.
by Kelly Bell

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Russia on the Offensive:
Return Engagement at Grozny, 1999
After the First Chechen War, Russian military leaders took a hard look at the failings during that conflict. The Russians reorganized their military in order to give them the initiative operationally and tactically. While not entirely successful, the resultant reforms enhanced combat efficiency. The Kremlin also made great strides in its handling of the media, something that had been bungled earlier.
by Christopher Miskimon

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The Ukrainian Insurgent Army & Operation Vistula: Poland, 1947
After the Soviet Army fought its way across Poland in 1944, combat continued in the rear areas. The communists—both from the USSR and native Poles—cracked down on all potential political opposition. One of those opposition groups was the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), which then operated throughout the Ukraine as well as in other Eastern European countries with Ukrainian minorities. The OUN contained within it an armed wing, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. It had self-organized during World War II, and had fought against both Germans and Soviets. The UPA was known for extreme ruthlessness and effectiveness.
by Maciej Jonasz

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