

BUSTER'S BATTERY

This week's trivia: The Skull and the Versailles Treaty

by Maj. James Crabtree

XVIII Abn. Corps PAO

The defeat of the Central Powers at the hands of the Allies was made official by the Versailles Treaty. The treaty redrew the borders of Europe, redistributed territories around the world, established the League of Nations and (in theory) demilitarized Germany.

However, buried amongst the items which established military tribunals to try war criminals, was a skull that placed the league's headquarters in Geneva and forbade Germany to have an air force.

Article 246 of the Versailles Treaty stated that "... Germany will hand over to his Britannic Majesty's government the skull of Sultan

Mkwawa, which was removed from the Protectorate of German East Africa and taken to Germany."

How does a skull come into a treaty to end a war? You might very well ask, but you would have to go back a few years prior to the great war when Germany entered the colonial land-grab of Africa rather late, but, was determined to make the most of it. Germany seized Togoland (Togo), Kamerun (Cameroon), German South-West Africa (Namibia), and German East Africa.

The people who already lived there were not asked their opinion about their new administrators.

German East Africa turned out to be a bit of a problem.

Some of the natives were

none too keen to be subjects of the kaiser and demonstrated it by attacking a battalion on its way to teach the Hehe tribe a lesson in July 1891.

The Germans were the ones who learned a lesson, namely that quantity has a quality all its own.

More than 3,000 Hehe warriors under the command of Chief Mkwawa, armed only with spears and a handful of firearms, defeated the Germans and their colonial troops, despite being armed with modern weapons.

On Oct. 28, 1894, German forces took their revenge by attacking Mkwawa's fortress at Kalenga, destroying the Hehe bastion and forcing Mkwawa to flee.

In July 1898 the Germans surrounded Mkwawa's remaining guerilla band and

Mkwawa committed suicide rather than be captured.

German soldiers removed Mkwawa's head as proof that the mighty warrior was dead.

And there the whole unfortunate tale might have ended if not for World War I.

Everyone is familiar with the Great War battles in Europe, the filthy trenches, poison gas and endless poetry. However, the war was not confined to Europe, and battles also took place in Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

In Africa the British made extensive use of native levees to aide their war effort, including the Hehe.

Thus, when the war ended in 1918, the British wanted to show the Hehe tribe that the Germans were truly defeated and the British were the

Hehe's new buddies. In short, they wanted Mkwawa's skull.

The Germans, when they saw Article 246, stated that they didn't know what the British were talking about and they certainly didn't have the skull.

The British ignored German protests as the "Huns" were claiming ignorance of just about everything in the Versailles Treaty, including the occupation of Belgium. The bottom line is, the perplexed Germans had no choice but to sign the treaty and hoped the whole thing would be forgotten.

And for the most part it was, until new queries began after World War II.

This time, with Germany occupied, the skull was traced to the Bremen

Museum where it was among dozens of African skulls brought back from the colonies. Later it was positively identified in 1954 and returned to Tanganyika.

Today it is on display in the Mkwawa Memorial Museum in Kalenga.

By the time "Skull Clause" of the Versailles Treaty was enforced, the Weimar Republic was gone, another world war had broken out and ended, the League of Nations was history and colonialism itself was on the way out the door.

Next Week:
How were Vulcans used during Operation Just Cause?

BUSTER'S BATTERY



by Maj. James Crabtree

Wounded Warrior program helps disabled Soldiers transition back onto active duty, civilian jobs

by Lucille Anne Newman

Paraglide

Injuries can occur at any time for Soldiers, whether wounded in action, trapped in a natural disaster or involved in a vehicle accident.

If the injury leaves a Soldier seriously disabled, programs such as the U.S. Army Wounded Warriors Program steps in to assist them and their family members transition back into the Army, retirement or civilian employment.

"They're still Soldiers, they're warriors," said Lt. Col. Kevin Arata, spokesperson, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, USAWW program. "(The program) was formed to help the Soldiers navigate through the maze of benefits (they may be) eligible for through a Soldier and family management specialist who has been assigned to these Soldiers."

Arata said that the program was first introduced by the Department of the Army as the Disabled Soldier Support System on April 30, 2004.

Then on Nov. 10, 2005, the U.S. government officially changed its name to the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program.

"This program provides its severely disabled Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow-up support to assist them as they transition," Arata said. "We have

representatives throughout the military medical facilities and installation. We're starting to spread out and get out there closer to the population we're serving. (Right now) we have more than 1,400 Soldiers in the program and we're still trying to contact Soldiers who have previous injuries that may still be eligible."

Arata said the program has increasingly met the needs of wounded Soldiers each year and it has come a long way in terms of providing the care and support they need.

"We have come a long way in terms of what we do in providing the care and support the Soldiers needs," he said. "We know how special they are and the sacrifices that they've made and we've received tremendous feedback."

"We educate the leaderships in the chain of command, military treatment facilities and we have people on site when they are injured to make sure they know what's out there and get them the information and assistance they need. The program does not cost (Soldiers) anything."

For more information about the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program, Soldiers can visit the Web site at www.aw2.army.mil, E-mail w2@hoffman.army.mil, contact a representative at their local healthcare facility or call (800) 237-1336.

RANGE SCHEDULE

From Monday through Nov. 5, units on Fort Bragg will be conducting small arms and high explosives firing in the Fort Bragg range area. All personnel are warned against entering any danger or impact area without specific approval from the installation range officer. The Fort Bragg range area is not considered an open range. Entry into or use of fixed ranges, observation posts, training facilities, or areas other than designated recreational areas on

Manchester, Plank or King roads, must be approved by the installation range officer. The schedule below is subject to change without notice to the public. Additions and/or deletions occur frequently. Commanders with a few individuals who need to fire may coordinate with the using unit to add firers to that unit's range. The following is the weekly range schedule that indicates the units that will be using the ranges.

PISTOL

38/45/9MM

Monday

Range 66C/3: 1BCT

Tuesday

Range 29: 2BCT

Range 66C/3: 1BCT

Wednesday

Range 29: 2BCT

Range 66C/2: 261ASMB

Range 66C/3: 1BCT

Thursday

Range 29: 2BCT

Range 66C/2: 6POB

Range 66C/3: 1BCT

M16 ZERO/QUAL

Monday

Range 41: 407BSB

Range 50: 3/73CAV

Range 58: 330MCB

Tuesday

Range 41: 261ASMB

Range 50: 3/73CAV

Range 58: 3/82VA

Wednesday

Range 31: 2BCT

Range 41: 2/82AV

Range 50: 3/73CAV

Range 58: 3/82AV

Range 59: 2BCT

Thursday

Range 31: 2BCT

Range 41: 3/319FA

Range 50: 3/73CAV

Range 58: 112SIG

Range 59: 2BCT

Friday

Range 52: 3/319FA

Saturday

Range 59: MUIC

M16 QUAL

Monday

Range 33: 2BCT

Range 34: 2BCT

Range 43: 330MCB

Range 56: 3/73CAV

Tuesday

Range 33: 2BCT

Range 34: 2BCT

Range 43: 2BCT

Range 56: 3/73CAV

Range 57: 2/325

Wednesday

Range 34: 2BCT

Range 43: 2BCT

Range 56: 3/73CAV

Range 57: 2/325

Thursday

Range 34: 1/504

Range 43: 2BCT

Range 56: 2BCT

Range 57: 2/325

Friday

Range 34: 2BCT

Sunday

Range 56: MUIC

M60 SAW/ZERO

Tuesday

Range 66B: 519MI

M60 SAW/TRANSITION

Monday

Range 54: 3/73CAV

Tuesday

Range 54: 3/73CAV

Wednesday

Range 54: 3/73CAV

Thursday

Range 54: 407BSB

Range 66A: 1/504

LOOKING BACK

Burning Faymonville

by Al Alvarez

Special correspondent

After hordes of enemy aircraft began bombarding our location, we "boomers" hid in our cellars as the bomb explosions rattled around us and watched our lieutenant celebrate New Years by drinking his liquor as we underaged peons looked on.

We were now going to attack Faymonville the first week of January 1945. On that day we took under fire all the possible firing positions in town and methodically increased the destruction by dropping high explosive rounds through the roofs and followed it up with a white phosphorous explosive to burn the houses. Faymonville was now systematically pulverized.

The pulverization was conducted concurrently while firing mortars in support of a patrol to

retrieve the body of Lt.

McLaughlin of Company L who had been killed in action days earlier.

Lt. Cangelosi "had the word" and ordered us to get ready by checking our equipment, clothing and footwear.

"I want constant commo while on the attack," he said. "The Infantry is going to get us on high ground every chance they can and protect us, too."

That was good, but for me, I needed to get warm first and layers of clothing was the answer. So it's, long underwear, shirts, jackets, many pairs of trousers, ponchos, straws wrapped under blanket strips and off we go.

(Editor's note: This is a series of memoirs by Lt. Col. Al Alvarez, who retired from XVIII Airborne Corps and now volunteers at the Airborne Special Operations Museum.)