

THE BLUEPRINT



Paarl Boys' High 2018



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THE BLUEPRINT



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		Fasiliteerder:	Mnr. K. Bezuidenhout

HOËR JONGENSKOOL PAARL

HJS ★ BHS
150
1868 ★ 2018



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PAARL BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

Redakteursbrief

As the last school term of 2018 goes up in smoke, one reflects on the highs and lows of the past year. Where can we do better next year? What should we do the same? Hopefully the exams went well and now we can all look forward to a well-deserved break.



In die woorde van wyle oudpresident Nelson Mandela: Opvoeding is die magtigste wapen waarmee jy die wêreld kan verander. Die laaste uitgawe van *The Blueprint* van 2018 sluit 'n baie goeie en uitputtende jaar af. Die tema van hierdie kwartaal se *Blueprint* is: wapens. Die inhoud dek fisiese wapens, maar kyk oor na wapens op 'n figuurlike manier, soos byvoorbeeld die tong as wapen. Die aanhaling van oudpresident Mandela verwys na opvoeding as 'n metaforiese wapen. Ons is almal bevoorreg om goed toegerus te word by ons geliefde skool.

Gepraat van wapens. Wat is jou van? Doen die vakansie moeite om jou familienaam te *Google* en ontdek so meer van j^ou erfenis en watter waardes dit onderskryf. Dalk leer jy iets van jousef en kan die kennis jou bewapen vir die toekoms.

We want to wish the class of 2018 all the best for their journey ahead. Van ons as *The Blueprint*-redaksie wil ons graag al ons lesers 'n geseënde Kersfees en voorspoed vir 2019 toewens.

Die Redakteur

Tandem Surculus Fit Arbor

Wat vandag so uiters belangrik is, is môre net 'n herinnering ...

Career choices

by Nicolás du Toit

“If you choose a job which you love, you’ll never work a day in your life,” is a frequently-heard quote. But what if your interests are somewhat unconventional? What if your passion in life lies in weapons, guns or firearms? Here are three possible career choices for all the weapon/gun-enthusiasts:

Consider becoming a gunsmith: a person who makes, modifies, repairs and sells firearms. In this career a wide range of skills are necessary, especially regarding mechanical expertise. Guns need to be made with exact measurements and therefore precision whilst crafting with metal is essential. Knowledge in science and mathematics is also required. Many gunsmiths are self-employed; however, some do work in conjunction with another business.



If you’re looking in this direction for a career, but seek something slightly more innovative, then a firearm engineer might be your ideal career. Requiring an in-depth knowledge of firearms, they design new guns, as well as make improvements on existing guns. Becoming a firearm engineer generally requires education in mechanical engineering in addition to an education in firearms. This career choice generally involves working with another business or company – where the engineer is given specifications and must come up with a gun. Specifications include things like weight, desired impact, speed of bullet, etc. ... It’s different from a gunsmith, as a firearm engineer’s focus is primarily in designing.

If your passion is guns, but you aren’t one to work with your hands or do physical work, then you may want to consider becoming a forensic ballistics expert. Now, forensic ballistics refers to the “examination of evidence relating to firearms at a crime scene.” This also includes explosives and projectile devices – all relating to crime. They match bullets with guns, sometimes from fragments from a victim, or use other evidence to find out which kind of firearm was used, at which angle and so on. To pursue this, knowledge in forensic science, as well as in the criminal justice or related field is required.

Whatever career you choose, follow your passions in life, better said by Jen Welter, “If you want to be successful in life, you have to follow your passion, not a paycheck.”

Legends of PBHS

By Dian Jacobs

Ek het 'n bietjie gaan gesels met 'n legende in ons midde, naamlik meneer Johan Strauss. Meneer Strauss is al 37 jaar 'n onderwyser by die Hoër Jongenskool, maar het ook 'n voorliefde vir wapens. Gegewe die tema van hierdie uitgawe van die *Blueprint*, het ek dit goedgevind om meer te gaan uitvind oor meneer Strauss se belangstelling in wapens.

Waar het Meneer se belangstelling in wapens vandaan gekom?

Dit was van kleintyd af vir my 'n uitdaging om iets met my kettie raak te skiet. Ek dink dis maar die oergene in baie mans wat hulle dié belangstelling gee.

Hoe lank is Meneer al besig met Meneer se versameling?

Ek het nie regtig 'n versameling nie. Ek het maar net 'n paar vuurwapens wat almal gebruik word. 'n Versamelaar maak die goed bymekaar en stal hulle uit, maar dié wat ek het, is almal vir jag of sportskiet bedoel.

So Meneer doen sportskiet ook as 'n stokperdjie?

Ja, deesdae nie meer so baie soos vroeër nie. Ek het hier in die tagtigerjare kompetend op provinsiale en nasionale vlak geskiet, maar deesdae skiet ek maar net so af en toe in klubkompetisies

Kan mens dit as 'n stokperdjie beskou?

'n Mens kan skiet as sulks as 'n stokperdjie beskou en daar is nogal baie verwante vertakkings. Die meeste ouens wat skiet as 'n stokperdjie beoefen, laai ook hulle eie ammunisie omdat ammunisie maar duur is en die ammunisie wat jy in die winkel koop, werk nie noodwendig so goed in alle vuurwapens nie, maar wanneer jy self laai, kan jy ammunisie laai wat vir jou spesifieke vuurwapen die beste werk.

As Meneer voor- en nadele van Meneer se stokperdjie moes beskryf?

Skiet is een van die aktiwiteite wat 'n mens leer om te fokus op een ding en alle ander lastighede rondom jou uit te skakel, want jy kan nie werklik akkuraat skiet, veral op 'n lang afstand, as jy bewus is van die vlieg wat in jou nek loop en die mense wat langs jou praat nie. Jy moet die vermoë ontwikkel om alle eksterne geluide en bewegings uit te skakel en net te fokus op die regte oomblik om die sneller af te druk.

Wat is Meneer se gunsteling soort wapen en kaliber?

Ek hou van handwapens. Ek het meer handwapens as gewere. Ek het nie 'n gunstelingkaliber nie, want jy gebruik verskillende kalibers vir verskillende aktiwiteite. Vir selfverdedigingsdoeleindes gebruik die meeste mense deesdae 'n 9 mm semi-outomatiese pistool. Die ammunisie is dwarsoor die wêreld beskikbaar en die kaliber is effektief genoeg vir daardie doel. As jy wil jag met 'n handwapen, sal jy groter kalibers gebruik. Jy kry ook handwapens wat gebou is om geweer-kaliber ammunisie te kan skiet. Hulle het 'n langer loop met 'n slot-aksie soos 'n geweer en 'n teleskoop word daarop gemonteer.

Wat sou Meneer sê is Meneer se oudste geweer?

Die oudste geweer wat ek het, is 'n .22 geweer wat aan my pa behoort het en wat ek na sy dood geërf het.



The pen is mightier than the sword

By Justin de Villiers

Origin and meaning

“The pen is mightier than the sword,” is a common phrase that is known by many and has become a sort of cliché over the years, but what does this phrase actually mean? These historic words were used for the first time in the play, Cardinal Richelieu, written by Edward Bulwer-Lytton. The play is about a chief minister to King Louis XIII who finds out about a plot to kill the king. He cannot take arms because he is a priest, but finds ways of making laws against these men using the signing of documents to stop the events from happening .

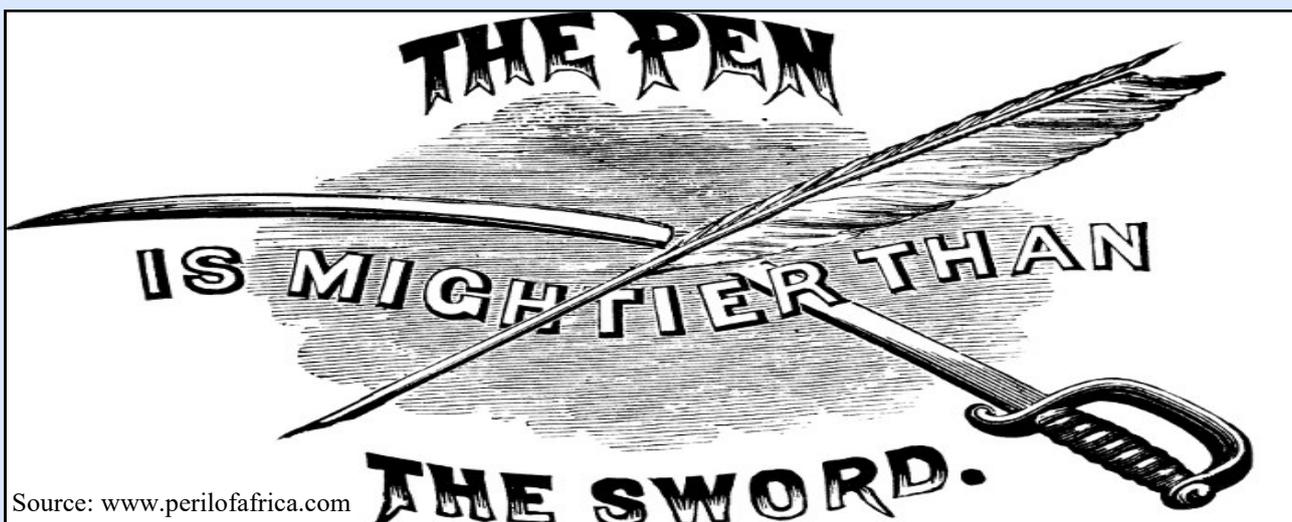
Ever since the phrase has gained great popularity. The world has gone through two world wars which saw great advancements in military technology and saw weapons of great power such as the atomic bomb and other nuclear weapons. So since swords were abandoned, does this phrase really still have any meaning? Well, if you look at the phrase literally then, yes, it is irrelevant but this phrase is used figuratively, so let's approach it in that way. The Cambridge Dictionary says the phrase is “said to emphasise that thinking and writing have more influence on people and events than the use of force or violence.”

How effective is “the pen and the sword”?

What has violence achieved in the past? A lot of death and few benefits. Many times violence has led to more violence, but it still cannot be overlooked that violence has brought about some good. Even in these cases many of the successes were shortlived and led to fighting once again. Words and writing on the other hand have been the go to for civilized society. Signed treaties, contracts and agreement can be highly effective. For example, the fact that we have not experienced a third world war is because of agreements between countries. On the other hand there was the the treaty of Versailles, that worked for about twenty years, but was so harsh on Germany it became one of the causes for the Second World War 20 years later.

So is the pen mightier than the sword?

It can be seen that the pen is highly effective and possibly more effective than “the sword” but does this mean that the pen is more powerful? Well, yes. If “the pen” could be so much more effective, then it is obviously more powerful. It produces the best results with stopping violence (the sword) in its tracks just as it was stopped in the play, Cardinal Richelieu.



Source: www.perilofafrica.com

Weapons of WW1

By Connor Hess

Humans proved themselves remarkably ingenious and adaptable when it came to finding new ways to maim and kill during the First World War. The list below explores many of the weapons used to produce millions of casualties in four short years.

Rifles. All nations used more than one type of firearm during the First World War. The rifles most commonly used by the major combatants were, among the Allies, the Lee-Enfield .303. The American Springfield used a bolt-action design that so closely copied Mauser's M1989 that the US Government had to pay a licensing fee to Mauser, a practice that continued until America entered the war.



Machine guns. Most machine guns of World War 1 were based on Hiram Maxim's 1884 design. They had a sustained fire of 450–600 rounds per minute, allowing defenders to cut down attacking waves of enemy troops like a scythe cutting wheat. There was some speculation that the machine gun would completely replace the rifle. Contrary to popular belief, machine guns were not the most lethal weapon of the Great War. That dubious distinction goes to the artillery.

Flamethrowers. Reports of infantry using some sort of flamethrowing device can be found as far back as ancient China. During America's Civil War some southern newspapers claimed Abraham Lincoln had observed a test of such a weapon, but the first recorded use of hand-held flamethrowers in combat was on February 26, 1915, when the Germans deployed the weapon at Malancourt, near Verdun. Tanks carried on a man's back used nitrogen pressure to spray fuel oil, which was ignited as it left the muzzle of a small, hand-directed pipe. Over the course of the war, Germany utilized 3,000 *Flammenwerfer* troops; over 650 flamethrower attacks were made. The British and French both developed flamethrowing weapons but did not make such extensive use of them.

Artillery. The 20th century's most significant leap in traditional weapons technology was the increased lethality of artillery due to improvements in gun design, range and ammunition, a fact that was all too clear in the Great War, when artillery killed more people than any other weapon did. Some giant guns could hurl projectiles so far that crews had to take into account the rotation of the earth when plotting their fire. Among smaller field guns, the French 75 mm cannon developed a reputation among their German opponents as the "Devil Gun." French commanders claimed it won the war. French 75 mm field guns also saw action in the Second World War, during which some were modified by the Germans into anti-tank guns with limited success.

Poison gas. On April 22 1915 German artillery fired cylinders containing chlorine gas in the Ypres area, the beginning of gas attacks in the First World War. Other nations raced to create their own battlefield gases and both sides found ways to increase the severity and duration of the gases they fired on enemy troop concentrations. Chlorine gas attacked the eyes and respiratory system; mustard gas did the same but also caused blistering on any exposed skin. Comparatively few men died from gas. Most returned to active service after treatment, but the weapon incapacitated large numbers of troops temporarily and spread terror wherever it was used. The use of poison gas was outlawed by international law following the war, but it has been used in some later conflicts, such as the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Weapons of WW1

Tanks. Ideas for “land battleships” go back at least as far as the Medieval Era; plans for one are included among the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci. The long-sought weapon became reality during the First World War. “Tank” was the name the British used as they secretly developed the weapon, and it stuck, even though the French simultaneously developed the Renault FT light-armoured vehicle, which had a traversable turret, unlike the British designs. The first British tank (“Little Willie”) weighed approximately 14 tons, had a top speed of 3 mph and broke down frequently. Improved tanks were deployed during the war, but breakdowns remained a significant problem that led many commanders to believe the tank would never play a major role in warfare. The Germans developed an armoured fighting vehicle only in response to the British and French deploying tanks. The only German design of the war, A7V, was an awe-inspiring, but cumbersome beast that resembled a one-story building on treads.



“Little Willie”

Aircraft. The air war of World War I continues to fascinate as much as it did at the time. This amazing new technology proved far more useful than most military and political leaders anticipated. Initially used only for reconnaissance, before long planes were armed with machine guns. Once Anthony Fokker developed a method to synchronize a machine gun’s fire with the rotation of the propeller, the airplane became a true weapon.

Early aircraft were flimsy, kite-like designs of lightweight wood, fabric and wires. The 80–120 horsepower engines used in 1914 produced top speeds of 100 mph or less; four years later speed had nearly doubled. Protection for pilots remained elusive, but most pilots disdained carrying parachutes regardless. Over the course of the war multi-engine bombers were developed, the largest being Germany’s “Giant” with a wingspan of 138 feet and four engines. It had a range of about 500 miles and a bomb-load capacity of 4 400 lb, although in long-range operations, such as bombing London, Giants carried only about half that much.

Submarines. Britain, France, Russia and the United States of America had all developed submarine forces before Germany began development of its *Unterzeeboats* (Undersea boats, or U-boats) in 1906, but during World War I submarines came to be particularly associated with the Imperial German Navy, which used them to try to bridge the gap in naval strength it suffered compared to Britain’s Royal Navy.

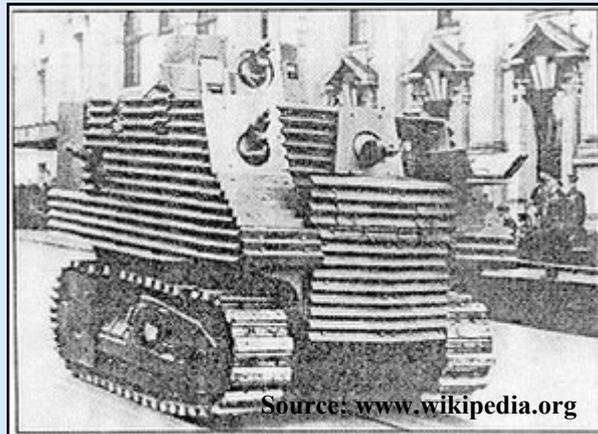
Longer-range U-boats were developed and torpedo quality improved during the war. Submarines could strike unseen from beneath the waves with torpedoes, but also surfaced to use their deck gun. One tactic was for the low-riding subs to slip in among a convoy of ships while surfaced, attack and dive. An unsuccessful post-war effort was made to ban submarine warfare, as was done with poison gas.

All in all, the weapons of WW 1 look very primitive compared to what we have today.

Interesting facts about weapons

By Justin de Villiers

- In the USA, weapons are used 80 times more often to prevent crime rather than commit it.
- The Portuguese used swords which were painted black in the age of discovery as not to give away their position by light being reflected from the sword. The paint also protected the blades from rust at sea.
- Shotgun manufacturer Mossberg has a line of guns specially designed for killing zombies.
- In the middle ages the best long-range weapon was the bow and arrow because it was accurate and could shoot up to 200 feet. Archers would defend the castle by shooting at the other army from on top of the castle.
- New Zealand's first tank (the Bob Semple tank) was built from a tractor, sheet metal and six machine guns. When ridiculed for the design Bob Semple said, "I don't see anyone else coming up with any better ideas."



The Bob Semple tank

- A Canadian inventor tried to create a "supergun" which could fire satellites into orbit from a 512 foot long barrel embedded inside a hill. When Western funding failed, he turned to military application of his ideas for Saddam Hussein, but then he was assassinated in Brussels.
- In Franklin D Roosevelt's original plans for the United Nations, the Four Policemen (the USA, UK, Soviet Union, and China) were the only nations allowed to possess weapons more powerful than a rifle.
- The Tsar Bomba, which was the most powerful nuclear weapon ever detonated, yielded 50-58 megatons of TNT. That is equivalent to about 10 times the combined power of all the conventional explosives used by all the armies in WW 2.
- Aztec warriors wielded swords embedded with small blades of obsidian, a kind of volcanic glass, making them the sharpest swords in history. They were so effective they could decapitate humans and even horses in one blow.
- In the early 1900s French gangsters used a weapon called an Apache Revolver that functioned as a revolver, a knife, and brass knuckles.

The Weapons that were used during The Vietnam War

By Stephan Stofberg

The Cold War in itself was not a traditional war in which the warring powers openly faced off against each other on the battlefield. It could be better described as the protracted build-up and rising tensions that usually precede a war, which luckily never happened. The two sides, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) and its capitalist allies faced off against the Warsaw Pact and its communist allies in the fields of (counter-) espionage as well as the more famous arms race.

This period of time was marked by numerous proxy wars in countries where the people were split amongst ideological lines. A prime example of a proxy war is The Vietnam War in which American-backed South Vietnam fought against the Soviet- and Chinese-backed North Vietnam. Even though there is no specific date on which the war started, it is now widely accepted that it lasted from roughly 1 November, 1955 and lasted until 30 April, 1975. The war saw the death of around 1,4 million civilians between 1965 and 1974 as reported by a US Senate Subcommittee in 1974. During the course of the war, 58 318 US military personnel were killed, of which 1,598 are still listed as missing as of 2018.



The weapons both sides used changed as time went on. In the early stages of the conflict the Viet Cong (Communist Guerrilla fighters) sustained themselves primarily with captured US made weapons captured from poorly defended ARVN outposts. Some of the weapons used were crude, self-made copies of other US weapons such as the Thompson submachine gun made from galvanised steel pipes (among other things). Later on as the conventional war started to heat up in 1967 all Viet Cong battalions were armed with Soviet- or Chinese-made AK-47s and RPG-2s. This allowed them to much more effectively ambush US armoured convoys travelling along vulnerable jungle roads. The AK47 was also well suited to jungle fighting: with its reputation of being nearly infallible, easy to maintain and to manufacture it was perfect for the ambush tactics used at the time.

The US entered the war with the M-14, a semi-automatic rifle that was developed from the success of the M1 Garand during WWII. In a time where the rest of the world were all switching to intermediate calibre rounds that were usable in the newer assault rifles the American armed forces stubbornly held onto its belief that its full-sized service rifle ammunition was better than the newer rounds. This was contrary to the evidence that smaller high-powered rounds could cause far more damage to a body than the traditional, larger rifle bullets used in the past.

The Weapons that were used during The Vietnam War

The M-14, being the rifle it is, was unsuitable for fighting in the humid and heavily vegetated jungles native to Vietnam where visibility was very limited and the superior accuracy and range that a rifle gave the user was rendered practically useless. The wooden fittings certainly did not help things at all. Overall the M-14 was vastly inferior to the AK-47 in practically every way that mattered, especially since engagements were often dictated by the volume of fire you could direct towards the enemy that you often could not even see.



The answer came in the form of the Colt AR-15 which, when adopted by the US Army became the M16 series of rifles that still sees service to this day. Even though it had some problems in the beginning that were primarily of the jamming kind it was later fixed by issuing cleaning kits to soldiers as well as changing the ball powder used in the bullets back to the recommended type. This along with other modifications made the M16 a superb weapon in which the only category where the AK series of rifles seriously outperformed was its reliability, though the later M16s certainly aren't anything too sneeze at.



The cold war divide can still be seen by who uses the AK-47 and its variants and who uses the NATO cartridge and M16 and later M4.

In the end it's not surprising that the AK-47 became the world's premier weapon of choice for cash-strapped countries or warlords in need of a rifle.

To show just how indestructible an AK-47 was, Colonel David Hackworth, in his book, *Steel My Soldiers' Hearts*, said that they once uncovered a Viet Cong soldier that had been buried under ground for a year with his AK. He picked up the rifle out of the mud, pulled back the lever and shot the full 30-round magazine. I don't think any other rifle can do that!