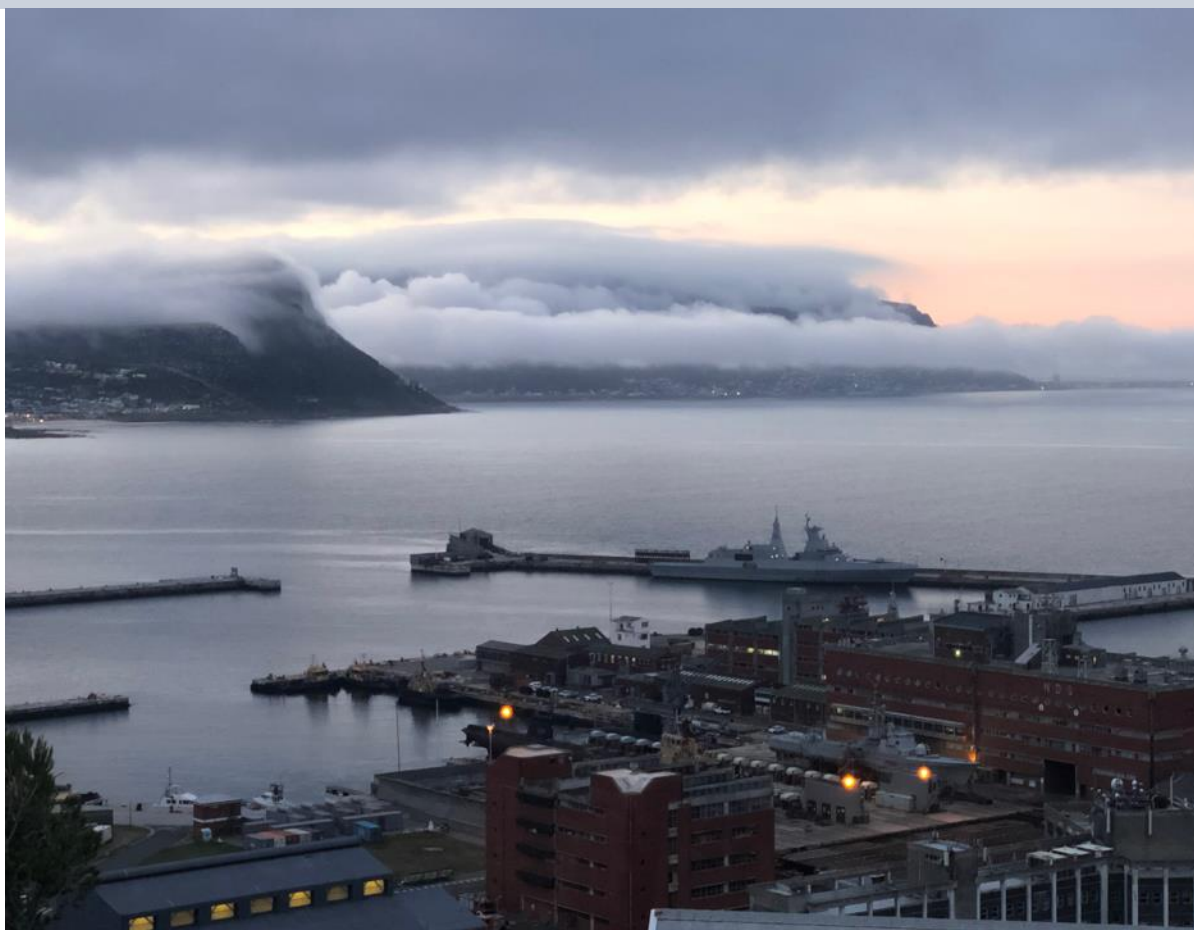




Hello club members and other readers of our little rag. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and blessings for a good holiday period and a great 2025!

This month we feature quite a bit of sport including a great piece by a friend on football (soccer), a sport not normally covered in Tattler. There are articles on both rugby and cricket as well. We hope that those that are not sport-crazy do not find it overbearing! There are also articles on large ships, narrow canals, incredible roads, unusual musical instruments, a tragic loss of a submarine 100 years ago and more. We hope you find items of interest and a chuckle or two.

We wish to stress that we do everything we can to produce a "monthly" with much variety. We always request feedback which, unfortunately, is not very forthcoming. We ask that members share the magazine with family and friends. We were a tad disappointed recently when the wife of an august member of our club knew nothing about Tattler's existence! So, please distribute it to family and friends, give us comments and hopefully this will lead to its improvement! Jonathan (jonathanagolding@gmail.com) and Colette (colettepatience@gmail.com) eagerly await some "incoming".

*Why is January like a Monday?
Everyone's always broke and motivated to change!*

Editorial

Rugby - Springbok best loosies?

The selection of Pieter-Steph du Toit as the Rugby Player of 2024 is a well-deserved one. South Africa has only won this award 4 times over the 20 years it has been awarded. du Toit joined Barrett, Carter and McCaw in being the only players to win the World Rugby Player of the Year Award on more than one occasion.

The other two Springbok past winners are Schalk Burger and Brian Habana.

This got Tattler thinking about Springbok loose forwards over the years and which ones were the best of the best. Comparing players from different eras is not everyone's cup of tea, so some may not be that interested but stick with us please.



The great Doug Hopwood - one of my early favourite players.

I started by listing the top players whom I personally watched play which reads as follows:

Doug Hopwood
Jan Ellis
Piet Greyling
Morne du Plessis
Theuns Stofberg
Rob Louw
Tiaan Strauss
Francois Pienaar
Ruben Kruger
Gary Teichmann
Andre Venter
Bobby Skinstad
Juan Smith
Schalk Burger
Francois Louw
Duane Vermeulen
Siya Kolisi
Pieter-Steph du Toit

This is 18, and already missing are a few favourites of other people no doubt. (A few that spring to mind are Tommy Bedford, Andre Vos and Joe van Niekerk). Also, please remember that I only considered players that I personally saw in action. (So the list excludes many great players up to the 60s). I then attempted to shorten it to 9 allowing 3 in each of the 6, 7 and 8 positions. This was really taxing. Leaving out players such as Piet Greyling, Ruben Kruger and Andre Venter was not done lightly!

8 - Morne du Plessis, Bobby Skinstad, Duane Vermeulen
 7 - Theuns Stofberg, Juan Smith, Pieter-Steph du Toit
 6 - Rob Louw, Francois Louw, Schalk Burger



Juan Smith



Morne du Plessis with Rob Louw to his right

As an aside, it must be recognised that, for some odd reason, SA open-siders wear the 6 whereas everywhere else in the world they wear the number 7.

I now had to pick just 3. At 8, I chose hard-man Duane. Omitting the all-round nous, durability and leadership skills of Morne and the flair, the rugby IQ and pace of Skinstad, was torture, but the man who should have played many more games for the boks, never had a poor game and set the tone for many victories was Vermeulen.

Strangely, 6 and 7 were less difficult to pick. How does one omit two international players of the year? So Schalk and Pieter-Steph are in! (Schalk at 6, although he played at 6, 7 and 8 for The Springboks).

The moving of Pieter-Steph du Toit from lock to the blindside was a master stroke. It took a few games for him to adjust, but once he did he simply "did a Red Bull" and grew wings. He is pretty pacy, tough as teak and a superb defender. In a similar mould to Andre Venter and Juan Smith, he is simply better. Schalk is a freak of nature! His ability to play anywhere in the back row, dual with the best the other sides produced during his career (see a previous Tattler article on his legendary battles with All Black strongman, Jerry Collins) and overall insight into the game puts him into the "greatest ever" category!

So, in my personal opinion, the best ever loose-forward trio for the Springboks is Schalk Burger, Pieter-Steph du Toit and Duane Vermeulen.



Only after completing this article did I realise that all 3, and in fact, eight of my shortlist of 9 come from the same province! Bias? Maybe? Okay, Duane started out in the Free State.....

If this stirred any memories and/or got you wanting to criticise my choices, agree with some or all of the choices, let us know. In the future we could look at other positions (other than prop forward. I don't begin to understand all the "dark arts" so I would be on very thin ice!)

Some Rugby Funnies

Warren Gatland takes Wales out for training and tells everyone to assume their normal position. So they all go and stand behind the goalposts and wait for the conversion.

What do you call an Irishman holding a bottle of champagne after the Rugby World Cup Final?
Waiter.

What do you call a Welshman in the World Cup final?! Nigel Owens.

Once you've seen one rugby joke, you've seen a maul.

I had a go at rugby the other day....I thought I was doing pretty well but all everyone kept saying was, "Nice try," ... Condescending bastards.

A rugby player goes to the physio and says "it hurts when I touch my arm, my chest or my leg". The physio says "you've broken your finger".

Went to a rugby referee's retirement recently. It was a good send off.



Was this one of the best innings ever, by one of the best batsmen, ever?

by Subhayan Dutta (from Cricket.com)



In November 1970, the former South Africa cricketer slammed a batting record that stood for 24 years. Before this historic innings, Barry Richards had faced Australia just once, which was, unfortunately, his last international outing against the side. Australia had toured South Africa in 1970 for four Tests, and Richards had scored two centuries and two half-centuries across seven innings, tallying a mammoth 508 runs at an average of 72.57.

However, the Durban lad was still a relatively unknown talent in Australia, a perception that had changed forever after the Sheffield Shield match between South Australia and Western Australia, which kickstarted on November 20, 1970. More than the tally, the venue of WACA made Richards' knock iconic.



For the uninitiated, what makes Perth's WACA a "furnace" is the superior amount of clay that constitutes its pitch, thus making it extremely fast and bouncy on a dry and hard track. However, that alone doesn't make WACA a graveyard for batsmen. In addition to the clay, Perth's humidity also helps maintain the ball's direction when released from the hand, lending less swing but more after strike with the ball getting older.

The trouble doesn't end there, though. The afternoon breeze that the southwest coastal areas of West Australia receive also makes WACA a delicious place for both swing bowlers. In case these weren't enough, the high temperature in Perth causes more cracks on the pitch, thus making it almost impossible for batsmen to adjust and sustain.

Hence, it wasn't surprising to see Western Australia opting to bowl first. Recalling the pitch that day, Richards had said, "I realized during the practice nets before the match what a bouncy track it was - it was very shiny and your studs wouldn't go in. There was plenty of pace, and I had never experienced as much bounce as that before."

Apart from the pitch and weather conditions that were almost unconducive for batting, a look at Western Australia's bowling line-up had almost cemented the perception that South Australia would struggle for breath on the first day. However, what was a challenge for most 1960s batsmen was an opportunity for Richards. Perhaps this is why he was inducted into ICC's Hall of Fame, having played just one Test series - four matches.

The right-handed batsman was widely recognized for his flawless technique and effortless strokeplay, which allowed him to precisely time the ball at nearly every part of the ground with devastating accuracy. Richards was never a powerful hitter and primarily relied on his footwork and movements to score runs as gracefully as possible.

Hence, WACA's feisty and bouncy pitch allowed him to get into his elements as Richards' impeccable technique helped him find gaps with geometrical precision both while playing on the front foot as well as the back foot. Opening the batting with John Causby, who made way for the great Ian Chappell soon, it was all Barry Richards throughout the day, despite Chappell tallying a gritty 129 on the first day as well. By the time Day 1 ended, South Australia were 513/3, with Richards unbeaten on 325 and Ken Cunningham on six.

Richards would fall to a controversial LBW decision the next morning, but he had already batted 372 minutes to tally a 356-run knock that had one six and a whopping 48 fours. He had brought his first 100 runs in 125 minutes, the next in 209 minutes and the third in 317 minutes.



Richards' tally remained the highest score in first-class cricket in a single day's play for almost 24 years until Brian Lara remained unbeaten on 501, scoring 390 of those in a single day in Birmingham while playing for Warwickshire against Durham. However, the bowling line-up of Western Australia, which had Dennis Lillee, Graham McKenzie, Ian Brayshaw, Tony Mann and Tony Lock, was way superior to what Lara faced.

However, the bowling line-up only made Richards better. "I think the quality of their attack, which also included Tony Lock, helped me maintain a higher than usual level of concentration. It all began with a quarter of an hour of reconnaissance before I got off the mark, a period of adjustment to the pace of that delightful wicket."

The South African played like a possessed man on the day, with greats like McKenzie and Lillee conceding 101 and 117 runs, respectively. Summing up his innings, Richards would perfectly put these words in his autobiography, *The Barry Richards Story*, "That evening when Lillee bowled the last ball of the day, I simply walked down the wicket, drove the ball back past him to the sight screen for four and, without breaking stride, continued towards the pavilion: 325 not out," Richards recalled in his autobiography.

South Africa's isolation didn't allow Richards to play internationally, but he would score 28,358 runs with an average of 54.74, a career that had 80 centuries and 152 half-centuries.

Three shot trick

Watching some test cricket of late, there have been a few instances of batsmen struggling in the "nervous nineties". These reminded me of the exact opposite, an occasion in which no nerves were on show at all!

It was a test match in Perth in 2012. Superstar AB de Villiers was facing. On 89, de Villiers got down on one knee to paddle Nathan Lyon past slip. The next ball, he did again to beat slip but it was the third shot which showed off his style. With no risk involved, he sent the ball through point with a flourish and brought up his century.



Credit Getty Images

Three shots (all reverse sweeps) as he swept through the nineties with no question of nerves!

IOI described it as follows:

Flick of the 'Genius Switch' - One, two, three. Reverse sweeps, for four, to go from 89 to 101. In a Test match, in a series decider, in Australia.

Who the hell does that? AB de Villiers did, in Perth, against off-spinner Nathan Lyon in 2012. As illustrations of dominance on a cricket field go, they don't come much better. The impudence. But that summed up the player and batsman De Villiers. "Peak AB" left you gasping, shaking your head.

While preparing the History section of this magazine, we recalled the days of Bunter's WP. We refer, of course, to the brilliant Eddie Barlow who skippered the local cricket team.

The team of the 70s must have been one of the most character-filled teams ever. Some brilliant cricketers, some comics, some play hard, drink hard boys and a few real rebels. Collectively they made a great team. During this period, the Transvaal mean machine was in action, but WP always gave them a real match and won a lot more than the Vaalies care to remember..



Let's mention a few big names here (in no particular order)

Hylton Ackerman. A stylish and effective batsman who became a bit of an all-rounder later in his career. He succeeded Bunter as captain.

Peter Kirsten. One Of South Africa's best ever batsmen. Occasional off-spinners and brilliant fielder. One Of the quieter fellows in the team!

Denys Hobson. A fabulous bowler, his leg spinners sometimes turned square. In tight games he occasionally opened the bowling.

Alan Lamb. What a great batsman. Went on to become a hero in English cricket.



Peter Swart. Another quality all-rounder. Dependable bowler, solid batsman and one of the best throwing arms. And a real character.

Andre Bruyns. Good top order batsman. Also a wicket-keeper.

Gavin Pfuhl. Under-rated keeper whose batting was more than adequate.

Garth le Roux. Brilliant opening bowler and hard-hitting lower order batter.

Named man of the series in the World Series of Cricket beating the top Aussie and Windies quicks!

Stephen Jefferies. Featured towards the end of the 70s. Garth's opening partner. Fantastic left-arm seamer. Big character!

Fred Goldstein, A real character full of strange mannerisms.. Born in Rhodesia, he was a pretty good opening batsman.



Mike Proctor. Played a few seasons for WP at the end of the 70s. One of the greatest all-rounders EVER.

Kepler Wessels. A peer of Kirsten and Lamb (what a trio!). Played a few seasons for WP in the mid 70s



The above does not attempt to be comprehensive, nor a selection of the best of the 70s. It is meant to recall some of the real characters of an era that was not quite as disciplined and professional as it is some 50 years later!

Football Corner

Tattler - We would like to introduce our readers to Howard Cohen, a long-term mate of your editors. Howard is an avid football fan and a huge Manchester United supporter. When I asked him to write an article for Tattler, he suggested he do something on United's traditional "red enemy"! He has done so, I thank him and hope you enjoy his excellent knowledge and writing.

Liverpool football at the end of 2024

The editor has twisted my arm to do a piece on the EPL. I decided to profile the log leaders.

Liverpool top the log with 36 points with a game in hand on the other three who are, at the time of writing, Chelsea [34], Arsenal [30] and Notts Forest [28]. The departure of Jurgen Klopp after seven halcyon years was a profound moment not only for Liverpool, but for the EPL and the game in general. Not only was he an engaging personality but he was also an innovator who changed the way the game could be played and ended up with many imitators none as good as his teams.

His style was what he described as heavy metal football. It translated into high octane, high tempo football with a murderous high press, an insistence on recovery of possession lost within eight seconds and a constant barrage of offensive forays into the opposition eighteen yard box. At its best it was exhilarating football, easy on the eye and intensive. No quarter asked and no quarter given. In the years when Sadio Mane, Bobby Firmino and Mo Salah formed the offensive axis, all at the peak of their playing careers, their intuitive feel and speed of thought and foot tore defences to pieces and frightened the hell out of their opponents. Once Mane inexplicably chose to depart, the offensive threat was never quite the same again, though excellent players were recruited.

When Klopp announced half way through last season that he was running on empty and needed a break, a cardinal error was made by the club's management. The announcement should not have been made with half the season still to be played. The theme of the team turned to "let's do it for Jurgen ". In reality Klopp looked a pale shadow of his ebullient former self and the teams performances dropped below their own high standards. There was an alarming slump and a losing streak that took the sting out of Liverpool's season. An improvement in their win ratio salvaged their champions league position.

Klopp's replacement, Arne Slot has turned out to be a shrewd choice. He is a less flamboyant personality, more pragmatic, less impulsive, but no fawning angel. He made the choice of retaining Klopp's squad with no

changes made. It must have been a decision that pleased John Henry the tight fisted owner of the club. Slot has marshalled his troops in exemplary fashion. His style of play is more prosaic, more patient, less frenetic, but he has not departed from the basic Klopp framework. He demands a high press and a quick tempo. His front line is not as potent as it once was, but Salah is in majestic form, Gakpo has his moments. Darwin Nunez has his critics, but is quick, resourceful and often gets himself into good scoring positions. His problem is a chronically defective radar system. If he can improve his shooting accuracy he could become a serious goal scorer. Diogo Jota when he is fit is a talented striker and adds to Slot's options up front. Personally, I am a fan of Luis Diaz, the Columbian winger. Quick, determined, blessed with excellent ball skills, he has a high work rate, creates opportunities with an eye for the telling pass, he has also scored some important goals.

Slot's Liverpool career started with an astonishing winning streak winning eleven of their opening twelve games, Notts Forest the first team to arrest this astounding run of form. They have since had a few draws as their streak understandably cools down. Of course there has never been a successful winning team that does not possess a cast iron defence, a competent keeper and a midfield that can dominate the ball, win possession and link with the front line. Because Slot demands more patience and composure both the defence and mid field play dominant roles in his game plan. Virgil van Dijk has been the fulcrum around which the whole team revolves. Imperious in defence, he marshals the back four, sets the tempo and organizes the set piece defence. He is also adept at scoring goals at corners, is the undisputed leader of the team and never shirks his responsibilities. Blessed with uncanny intuition and anticipation, he can see a pass before it arrives and senses danger whilst it is in the making. By his standards he was not up to speed last season as he took some time to recover from a serious injury. He is now playing better than ever. Konate has been a decent partner for van Dijk and is growing in stature.

In the mid field there is an abundance of talent. Perhaps the standout performer thus far has been Ryan Gravenberch. He is only 22 but plays with unflappable composure, has quick reflexes and anticipation and passes the ball with accuracy and imagination. He is also incisive in the tackle and has become Slot's go to man in the middle of the park. Dominik Szoboszlai who at 24 is skipper of the Hungarian national team, a measure of his maturity, is a natural midfielder and plays with an almost arrogant confidence and self-belief. Curtis Jones, only 21 has been getting regular game time and grows in stature and confidence with each week. He will develop into a first rate mid fielder and does not look out of place amongst his peers. Harvey Elliott, a particular favourite of mine is coming back from injury and I expect a successful career awaits him. It is encouraging for Slot and Liverpool that the midfield is so young in years as their peak playing days lie ahead.

The full backs present a problem for Slot. Andy Robertson is past his best and a long term replacement needs to be sought for him. Trent Alexander - Arnold is a wonderful passer of the ball but is a poor defender and too slow to prevent a fleet footed winger getting around him. He appears to want out and the club is understandably reticent at offering him a long term contract. Real Madrid appear interested and now is the time for the club to cash out on one of their highest wage earners. Kostas Tsimikas has filled in for Robertson, but is not good enough to hold down the position on a long term basis. Joe Gomez has played full back competently, but is better suited to a mid-field role. The goalkeeping spot presents a conundrum. Alisson Becker is the incumbent keeper, but his under study Caoihin Kelleher is the best reserve keeper in the league and would walk into most Premier league teams as their first choice keeper. Personally I think he is a better keeper than Alisson and management will have to make some tough decisions at the end of the season.

My view is that the current Liverpool side is the best in the league and if I was a scouser I would be disappointed if they did not take the laurels at the end. They are strong in all positions, have quality depth and under Slot are more composed and cerebral than Klopp's teams though not as exciting or dynamic. They are much more patient when games need to be shut out. The mercurial devil may care approach of the Klopp era has been trimmed. For what it is worth I think their chief rival will be Chelsea who will run them close. Yours in football.

Howard

Did you know? - When is a chicken not a chicken?

A Mountain Chicken is not chicken. It's a kind of frog.



How big is "big"? How long is a "long ship"?

How about this lady?

The Seawise Giant, the largest ship ever built, measured 457 meters in length and had a cargo capacity of up to 4.5 million barrels of oil, representing 5% of the world's daily crude consumption. It operated from 1979 to 2010, but its size prevented it from passing through the Suez and Panama Canals, restricting its navigation to the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, and the South China Sea.

Credits: Conocimientum

Just look at the comparisons below to comprehend her size:

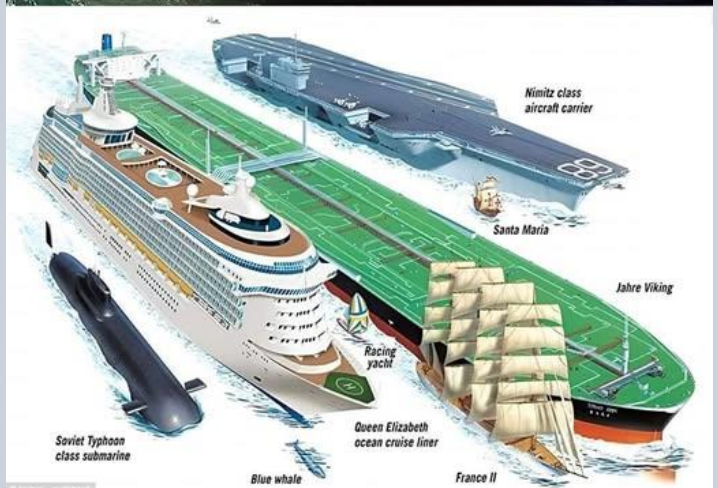
The Seawise Giant was truly a colossal ship. It measured 1,504 feet in length and 225 feet in width, making it longer than the Empire State Building is tall. It had a deadweight tonnage of 564,763 tons, meaning it could carry more than 4 million barrels of crude oil.

Turning circle: 1.86 miles.

Stopping distance: 5.6 miles.

Speed: Could reach up to 16.5 knots (30.6 km/h) in good weather.

Construction cost: Exceeded \$100 million, which is equivalent to nearly \$300 million today.



Did you know?

The narrowest navigable canal in the world.

The Corinth Canal connects the Aegean Sea and the Ionian Sea and cuts the Isthmus of Corinth in two, thus shortening the ship route by almost 400 km. This is the narrowest navigable canal in the world. Its construction was planned in the 7th century BC but the canal itself was built between 1881 and 1893. It is 6.3 km long. It is 21 m wide and 8 m deep. About 11,000 boats cross the canal each year, mostly on tourist routes. It was built by the Hungarian engineer István Türr.

Credits RENÉ VEGA

Watch a major ship passing through by clicking on the image alongside.



And then we have a road.....The Karakoram Highway

The Karakoram Highway, connecting Pakistan and China through the Khunjerab Pass at 15,397 feet, is hailed as the "Eighth Wonder of the World" for its engineering and historical significance. Following an ancient Silk Road route, its construction spanned from 1959 to 1979, officially opening in 1986. Stretching 800 miles, it navigates some of the planet's most difficult terrain.

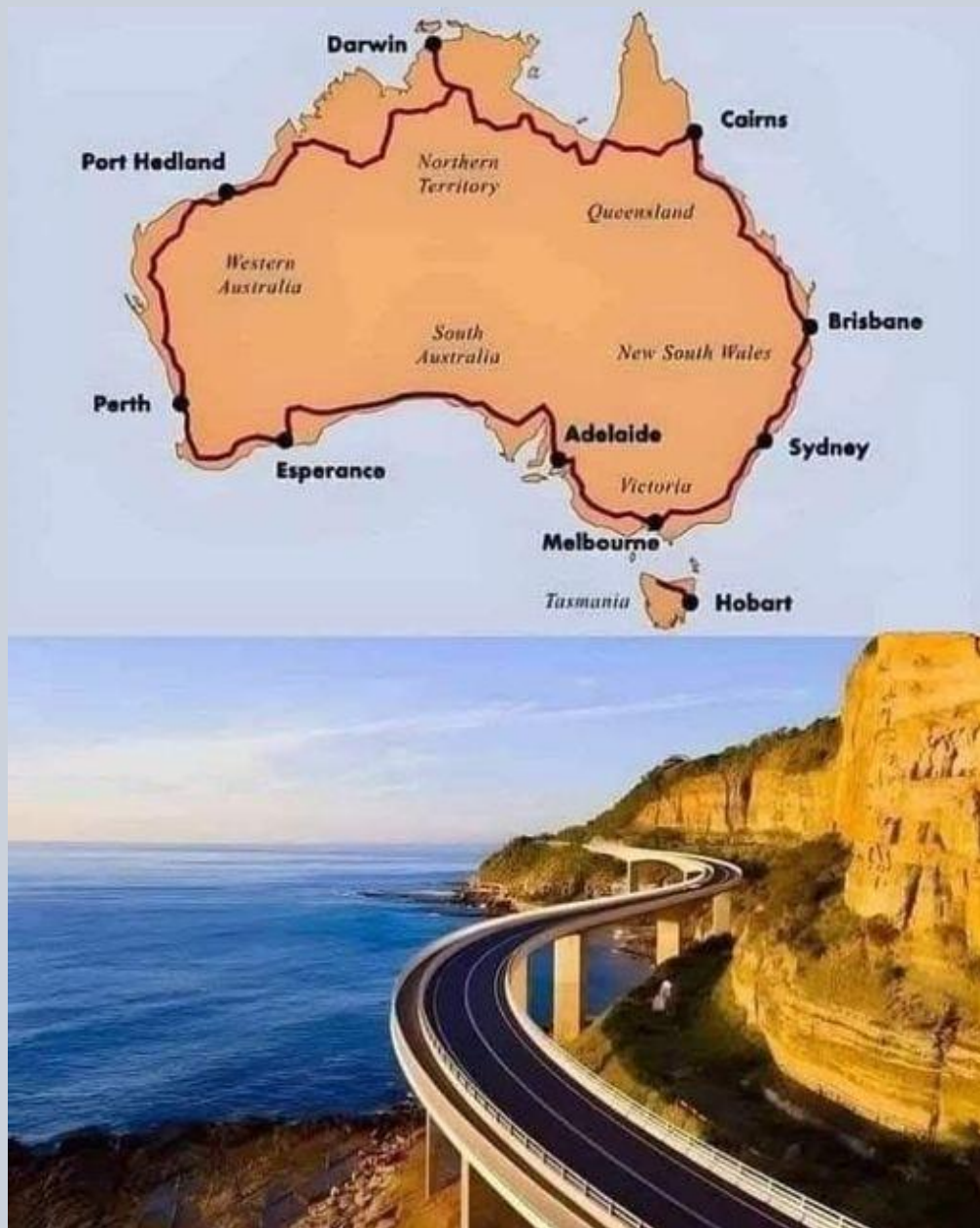
Credit - History's Mysteries

Go for a "drive on it"! by clicking the image to the right to watch the video.



Feel like going on a (very!) long road trip?

At 14,500 km (9,000 mi), Highway 1 is the world's longest national highway. It's also the longest continuing highway in the world, as it's not separated by a gap like the Pan-American Highway.



Australia Highway 1, known as the "Big Lap," is one of the longest highways in the world and extends mostly at the national level, encircling the entire continent.

Cracking your knuckles causes arthritis?

(By Ivor Vegter)

If you're a habitual knuckle-cracker, you've probably been told to cut it out because it will cause arthritis. This is not true.

The popping sound you hear when knuckles are bent backwards is caused by bubbles that form and collapse in the synovial fluid, which lubricates joints. While it has been compared to cavitation, which can erode steel ship propellers, there is no evidence that it can cause any permanent injury to the tissues in your joints.



You can, of course, injure yourself if you bend your knuckles too far, and excessive wear and tear can cause osteoarthritis, which is the degradation of cartilage in the joint, but neither of these is related to the popping you hear when cracking your knuckles.

The real reason you should cut it out is that it's annoying.

As usual, Tattler did a little more digging into the subject and found little to prove Ivor incorrect. The following comes from the Harvard Health Publishing.

Knuckle cracking: Annoying and harmful, or just annoying?

By Robert H. Shmerling, MD, Senior Faculty Editor, Harvard Health Publishing and Editorial Advisory Board Member, Harvard Health Publishing.

Knuckle cracking is a common behaviour enjoyed by many. It can become a habit or a way to deal with nervous energy; some describe it as a way to "release tension." For some, it's simply an annoying thing that other people do. If you've ever wondered why stretching the fingers in certain ways causes that familiar noise or whether knuckle cracking is harmful in some way, read on. Despite how common it is, there has been considerable debate regarding where the noise comes from. Fortunately — at least for those of us who are curious about it — knuckle cracking has been the subject of a fair amount of research. How do we know that knuckle cracking is harmless? One of the most convincing bits of evidence suggesting that knuckle cracking is harmless comes from a California physician who reported on an experiment he conducted on himself. Over his lifetime, he regularly cracked the knuckles of only one hand. He checked x-rays on himself after decades of this behaviour and found no difference in arthritis between his hands. A larger study came to a similar conclusion.

Unusual Musical Instrument

Something a little different and rather beautiful - The Harp Guitar
Watch & Listen right here!



The angry sea and a brave lighthouse

This is the breathtaking Lighthouse of the Jument, a lone guardian in the Atlantic off the coast of Brittany, France. Built in 1911, it stands on a rocky islet known as Ar-Gazec, where the raging waves of the ocean crash with force during storms. This lighthouse became famous thanks to an iconic photograph by Jean Guichard, who captured a monumental wave enveloping the structure while the lighthouse remained in the gate. Its location, on one of the most dangerous sea passages, symbolizes human resistance to the power of nature.

See image on the next page.

Credits: Flash curiosidades



Elevated Bridges - Going in circles?

This is how China elevated bridges are true engineering marvels that connect challenging regions with creative solutions. This spiral bridge, located in a mountainous region, is designed to solve the complex task of ascending or descending pronounced altitudes without the need for long tunnels or straight roads that would take up more space and cause a greater environmental impact. Its structure combines high-strength materials with a design that makes the most of available space, allowing for a steady flow of vehicles while offering spectacular views of the natural surroundings. This type of infrastructure demonstrates China's commitment to sustainable development and efficient mobility, standing out as a symbol of engineering innovation.

Credits: Flash curiosidades



And, the famous Nanpu Bridge.



Club Matters

Club Manager's Report

We wish the following members a very Happy Birthday. May the year ahead be filled with good health and happiness. For our usual bit of fun, we note some historic events and dates.

Capt J.F. Lamont (Ret) – 01 January.

The Birth of the United Nations in 1942 / The United Nations (UN) was officially established as a global organization aimed at promoting peace and cooperation between nations. The UN's Charter was signed on June 26, 1945, but January 1, 1942, marks the date when 26 nations, including the U.S., U.K., and Soviet Union, pledged to continue fighting the Axis powers during World War II and committed to the creation of a post-war peace organization.

Capt S.W. Slogrove (Ret) – 02 January.

The Launch of the First Space Mission to the Moon 1959 / The Soviet Union's Luna 1 spacecraft was launched, becoming the first human-made object to reach the Moon's vicinity.

R.Adm P. Schoultz (Ret) – 03 January.

J.R.R. Tolkien born 1892 / Author, Philologist, Professor.

Capt G.F. Harrison (Ret) – 05 January.

Diane Keaton born 1946 / Actress, Director, Producer.

Mr B.G. Altria – 09 January.

Richard Nixon born 1913 / 37th President of the United States.

Mr R.F. De Wet – 10 January.

The U.S. Department of Defence in 1983, officially adopted the TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) standard, which became the foundation of the modern internet.

Lt Cdr R.L. Hirschhorn – 11 January.

General George S. Patton born 1885 / United States Army General in World War II.

Mr C.R.H. Hartley – 12 January.

The Start of the Siege of Leningrad in 1942 / German forces began their siege of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) during World War II.

R Adm D.G. Jamieson (Ret) – 13 January.

Fender Stratocaster (Original Launch Date) in 1954.

Mrs N. Smith – 15 January.

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel born 1891 / German Field Marshal during World War II.

Mr T. Van Wyk – 18 January.

Brad Pitt born 1963 / American Actor known for Fight Club, Inglourious Basterds, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.

Mrs C. Patience – 20 January.

John F. Kennedy born 1917 / He became 35th President of the United States.

Mr H. Heitman – 20 January.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated for his first term as President of the United States in 1933.

Cdr P. Pysden (Ret) – 21 January.

[The Execution of King Louis XVI in 1793 / King Louis XVI of France was executed by guillotine in the Place de la Révolution in Paris.](#)

Capt K.S. Wise (Ret) – 23 January.

[Alexander Graham Bell born 1847 / Notable Inventions Telephone.](#)

Lt A.W. Hugo – 23 January.

["A Hard Day's Night" by The Beatles in 1964 \(US Release\).](#)

Mr B.P. Coetzee – 24 January.

[The Launch of the Titanic 1912 / The British luxury liner RMS Titanic was officially launched.](#)

Aye,
Glen

December Quiz - Maybe our best quiz ever?

On 11th December we held our 12th and final quiz for the year. Before going any further I would like to thank Euan and Doug for their fantastic support over the 12 months. I honestly believe that our quiz is top drawer, comparable to any other, anywhere.

Five teams locked horns and all were competitive right until the end when we had a tie! A tie-breaker question was (eventually!) correctly answered and the winners declared! (see below).



Euan, Doug and I have been running these quizzes for several years, There have been ups and downs; disappointing turnouts and good evenings, but tonight set a tone for, hopefully, a great quiz future. The regular participants plus a few "newbies" alternated between stern concentration and hilarity; between intense competition and joyful reaction to the answers. It was simply great and makes the effort so worthwhile!

I can only thank all of those that participated for making the quiz everything we ever intended for it to be.

Below, a photograph of the teams in action:



Tattler - We repeat:

The quiz is held every month on the 2nd Wednesday. (Next quiz 8 January)

We start at 19h00 and finish at 21h00

There is no entry fee

All members, their family members and their friends are welcome

Teams of 4 compete. We will assist in forming teams

Below is a set of questions from the December Quiz

Category - New York City - The Big Apple

- 1) How many boroughs are there in New York City
- 2) What is the approximate population of New York City? (5.3million, 8.3 million, 12.3 million?)
- 3) It is located at the mouth of which river?
- 4) The financial centre of the globe was originally a Dutch fortification (1653). Name the street
- 5) The most populous borough of New York occupies 81 square miles (210 square km) to the east of Manhattan. Name it.
- 6) Name the famous Tennis Stadium in Queens
- 7) Name the famous ferry that traverses New York Harbour between the island and Manhattan
- 8) What was New York City called from 1626 to 1664, after which the British took control of the area and renamed it?
- 9) Which is the top university in New York? (Starts with a "C")
- 10) The finest concerts in a very musical city are heard in a "hall" founded in 1891. Named after the 2 million dollar donor, name it.

Maritime, Naval and Military

BEST Technology – staying under, longer!

Source: Indian Defence News 28/11

L&T (Larsen & Toubro) and Spanish partner Navantia unveil tech to keep submarines submerged for 21 days.



L&T and its Spanish partner Navantia have recently unveiled a ground breaking technology known as Bio Ethanol Stealth Technology (BEST), which significantly enhances the underwater endurance of submarines.

This innovation allows submarines to remain submerged for up to 21 days, a substantial improvement over traditional capabilities that typically require surfacing every few days.

The BEST system utilizes bio-ethanol to generate oxygen, which is crucial for sustaining the crew and powering fuel combustion within the submarine. By extending the time submarines can stay submerged, this technology greatly improves stealth operations, making it harder for enemy forces to detect them. The technology has been successfully integrated into the S-83 submarine for the Spanish Navy, marking a significant milestone in Navantia and L&T's offerings for India's Project 75(I) submarine program.

The Bio Ethanol Stealth Technology (BEST) developed by L&T and Navantia significantly enhances the stealth capabilities of submarines in several key ways:

Prolonged Submersion: BEST allows submarines to remain submerged for up to 21 days, eliminating the need to surface frequently for battery recharging, a common limitation in conventional submarines. This extended endurance enhances stealth by reducing the frequency of detectable surface operations, making it harder for adversaries to locate and track the submarine.

Minimized Noise Generation: The technology utilizes bioethanol to generate oxygen, which sustains crew life and powers combustion without the need for diesel engines that typically generate noise. This reduction in mechanical noise contributes to a lower acoustic signature, making the submarine less detectable by sonar systems.

Streamlined Hull and Propulsion: The integration of BEST is likely to complement existing hydrodynamic designs that minimize turbulence and noise generated as the submarine moves through water. These designs

include features like streamlined hull shapes and advanced propeller systems that reduce cavitation, further enhancing stealth capabilities.

Noise-Dampening Features: While BEST focuses on oxygen generation, it is expected to be implemented alongside other stealth technologies such as anechoic tiles that absorb sound and prevent sonar detection. These materials are crucial in ensuring that any noise produced by the submarine does not reflect back to sonar systems, thereby maintaining stealth during operations.

BEST technology enhances submarine stealth by allowing prolonged underwater operations without surfacing, significantly reducing noise generation during propulsion and operations, and integrating with advanced materials designed to minimize sonar detection. This combination positions submarines equipped with BEST as formidable assets in modern naval warfare.

L&T and Navantia are competing in India's Project 75(I), which involves the construction of six air-independent propulsion (AIP) submarines. This project, valued at approximately ₹43,500 crore (around €4.8 billion), is one of India's largest defence acquisition initiatives. The integration of BEST could provide L&T and Navantia with a competitive edge against rivals such as Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.

The introduction of BEST aligns with India's broader defence strategy aimed at promoting indigenization and technology transfer in military procurement. The partnership between L&T and Navantia not only focuses on submarine technology but also includes collaborations in other areas such as green energy solutions.

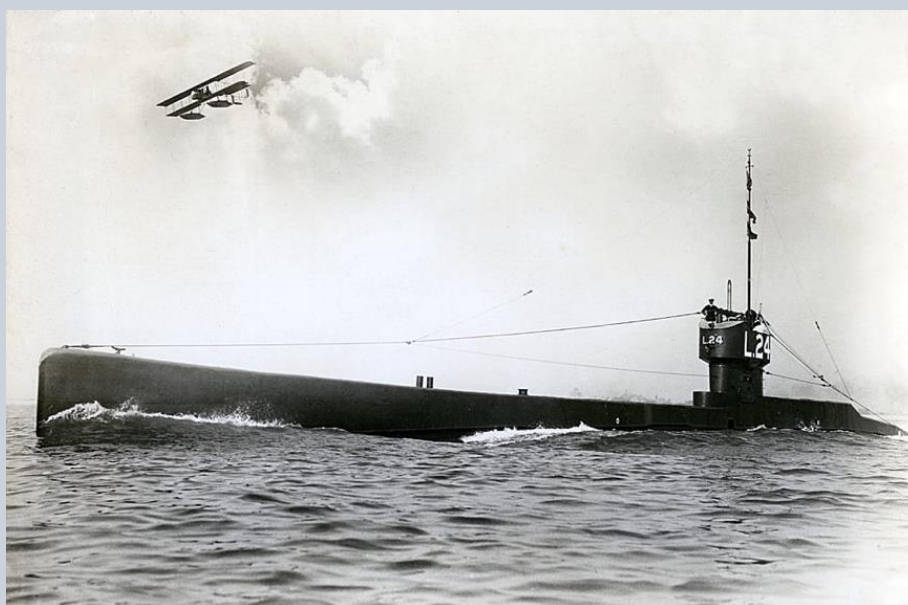
As the technical evaluations for Project 75(I) proceed, the effectiveness of BEST will be pivotal in determining the future of India's undersea warfare capabilities.

1925 Collision between HMS Resolution & HMS L24 in the English Channel

Source: <https://www.submarinefamily.co.uk>, <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

The British submarine HMS L24 sank in the English Channel after colliding with the Royal Navy battleship HMS Resolution. All 43 men on L24 died.

The British submarine HMS L24 tragically sank in the English Channel after colliding with the Royal Navy battleship HMS Resolution. All 43 men aboard the submarine perished in the accident, making it one of the more tragic incidents in British naval history. Here's a detailed account of the story:



The events leading to the sinking of HMS L24 unfolded during a naval exercise in the English Channel. Submarines were integral to Britain's Royal Navy in the post-World War I era, used primarily for reconnaissance and defence. The L-class submarines, including HMS L24, were designed for patrol and coastal defence and were considered state-of-the-art at the time.

During this routine naval manoeuvre, HMS L24 was navigating amidst a fleet of vessels, including the battleship HMS Resolution. Due to circumstances that remain debated—poor visibility, miscommunication, or navigational errors—the submarine collided with the battleship. The impact caused catastrophic damage to HMS L24, which rapidly sank to the seabed. The battleship, though damaged, remained afloat and operational.

The sinking occurred so quickly that the crew of HMS L24 had no time to escape. All 43 men aboard were trapped as the vessel descended, marking a sombre day for the Royal Navy. Efforts to rescue the submarine or recover survivors were hindered by the depth of the wreckage and the time-sensitive nature of the event.

HMS L24 was a part of the L-class, a series of submarines that entered service during World War I. These submarines were well-regarded for their design, with a length of approximately 235 feet and displacement of 960 tons when surfaced. They were armed with torpedoes and deck guns, enabling them to counter surface ships effectively.

The crew aboard HMS L24 were skilled and experienced, having trained extensively for submarine operations. The tragedy underscored the dangers faced by submariners, who often operated in confined and high-risk environments.

HMS Resolution, the battleship involved in the collision, was a Revenge-class battleship commissioned in the Royal Navy. With its formidable firepower and heavy armour, it was among the most powerful warships of its time. However, its massive size and limited manoeuvrability likely contributed to the collision with the submarine.

The Royal Navy launched an inquiry into the incident to determine the cause of the collision. While the official findings emphasized the inherent risks of operating large fleets in close proximity, some speculated that miscommunication or inadequate precautions might have played a role.

The wreck of HMS L24 remains a war grave, protected under the UK's Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. It serves as a poignant memorial to the men who lost their lives in the service of their country.

The loss of HMS L24 and her 43 crew members remains a tragic chapter in naval history. Their sacrifice underscores the bravery of submariners and the inherent dangers of life at sea. Memorials and commemorations for the crew of HMS L24 ensure that their service and sacrifice are not forgotten.

The “Unkillable Soldier” Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart

Source: BBC.co.uk

Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart was a one-eyed, one-handed war hero who fought in three major conflicts across six decades, surviving plane crashes and PoW camps. His story is like something out of a Boy's Own comic. Carton de Wiart served in the Boer War, World War One and World War Two. In the process he was shot in the face, losing his left eye, and was also shot through the skull, hip, leg, ankle and ear.

In WW1 he was severely wounded on eight occasions and mentioned in despatches six times. Having previously lost an eye and a hand in battle, Carton de Wiart, as commanding officer, was seen by his men pulling the pins of grenades out with his teeth and hurling them with his one good arm during the Battle of the Somme, winning the Victoria Cross.

WW1 historian Dr Timothy Bowman believes Carton de Wiart's example helps debunk some myths. "His story serves to remind us that not all British generals of WW1 were 'Chateau Generals' as portrayed in Blackadder. He exhibited heroism of the highest order".

"Evelyn Waugh supposedly used Carton de Wiart as the model for his fire-eating fictional creation, Brigadier Ritchie Hook, but Waugh's fictional creation experienced considerably fewer adventures than his real life counterpart."

It says much for Carton de Wiart's character that despite being one of the most battle-scarred soldiers in the history of the British Army, he wrote in his autobiography: "Frankly, I had enjoyed the war."



Image source, ALAMY - Carton de Wiart

He was born into an aristocratic family in Brussels on 5 May 1880. In 1891 he was sent to boarding school in England, going on to study law at Oxford. In 1899 he saw the opportunity to experience his first taste of war. Abandoning his studies, he left for South Africa to serve as a trooper in the British Army during the second Boer War. As he was under military age, wasn't a British subject and didn't have his father's consent, he pretended to be 25 and signed up under a pseudonym.

It was a baptism of fire which ended with him receiving bullet wounds to the stomach and groin, necessitating a return to England. Although eager to get back in the mix again, he had to wait more than a decade to experience further front-line action.

At the outbreak of WW1 in November 1914, Carton de Wiart, now naturalised as a British subject, was serving with the Somaliland Camel Corps, fighting the forces of the Dervish state. During an attack on an enemy stronghold, he was shot in the arm and in the face, losing his left eye and part of his ear. He received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his exploits.



Carton de Wiart (back row, far right) photographed with Winston Churchill in 1943 / Image source, Getty Images

Speaking in 1964 Lord Ismay, who served alongside Carton de Wiart in Somaliland, described the incident: "He didn't check his stride but I think the bullet stung him up as his language was awful. The doctor could do nothing for his eye, but we had to keep him with us. He must have been in agony."

Lord Ismay also gave an insight into Carton de Wiart's innate love of fighting: "I honestly believe that he regarded the loss of an eye as a blessing as it allowed him to get out of Somaliland to Europe where he thought the real action was."

He returned to England to recover in a nursing home in Park Lane. He was to return to this same place on each subsequent occasion he was injured. This became such a regular occurrence that they kept his own pyjamas ready for his next visit. While recuperating from these injuries, Carton de Wiart received a glass eye. It caused him such discomfort that he allegedly threw it from a taxi and instead acquired a black eye patch.

Such setbacks were not to delay him long. He soon realised his ambition to fight on the Western Front when he was sent to Ypres in May 1915. During the Second Battle of Ypres, the Germans launched an artillery barrage in which Carton de Wiart's left hand was shattered. According to his autobiography, *Happy Odyssey*,

he tore off two fingers when the doctor refused to amputate them. His hand was removed by a surgeon later that year.

The way he overcame injury and disability remains an inspiration, says Colour Sgt Thomas O'Donnell, who served in Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. "For him to have endured all those injuries and gone through so much rehabilitation in so many conflicts and to never give up is really inspirational, particularly given the inferior medical facilities they had then. I just don't know how he managed it.

"Soldiers like Carton de Wiart are a real example for troops serving today. It's quite sad that having sacrificed so much his story isn't particularly well-known. I think as well as remembering the war dead, it is vital we remember what injured soldiers like him went through in countless conflicts."

So if Carton de Wiart was a serving soldier today, would he be allowed to return to the front line having lost an eye and a hand? O'Donnell says he would have to undergo stringent tests and strict rehabilitation before a return to front-line action would be considered.

"The Army have set a series of tests for injured soldiers that impose a required standard we have to meet to be able to do our job. A friend and I, who had lost a leg, completed those tests and were able to redeploy to Afghanistan after several years of rehabilitation. The tests included passing an annual shoot and marching a distance with a certain weight. I would like to think that if Carton de Wiart could still do his job, they would let him crack on."

A soldier who served under Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart at the Battle of the Somme recounts his experiences. After a period of recovery, Carton de Wiart once more managed to convince a medical board he was fit for battle. In 1916, he took command of the 8th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, and while commanding them at the Somme his legend was cemented.

He electrified his men. The eye patch, empty sleeve and striking moustache, combined with his bravery, made him famous, with men under his command describing his presence as helping to alleviate their fear before going over the top.

During fierce fighting, the battle for the village of La Boisselle swayed back and forth. When three other commanding officers were killed, Carton de Wiart took charge of all units fighting in the village and led from the front, holding off enemy counterattacks.

He received the Victoria Cross, the highest British military award for gallantry, for his actions at La Boisselle. He, however, declined to even mention the medal in his autobiography, later telling a friend that "it had been won by the 8th Glosters, for every man has done as much as I have".

In his own words

"Governments may think and say as they like, but force cannot be eliminated, and it is the only real and unanswerable power. We are told that the pen is mightier than the sword, but I know which of these weapons I would choose". "Frankly, I enjoyed the war [World War One]" "At that moment, I knew once and for all that war was in my blood. If the British didn't fancy me, I would offer myself to the Boers"



He took part in a number of other offensives during the war, picking up more injuries. Mr A Holmes, who served as Carton de Wiart's "batman" or personal servant, told the 1964 BBC Home Service programme, In Our Time, how his commanding officer had a particularly lucky escape during another Somme offensive. "They

shifted us from Ypres then back on the Somme again to the Devil's Wood, and that's where the old man got shot through the back of the head. But fortunately it missed his spinal cord."

Some historians have contended that Carton de Wiart's bravery at times bordered on recklessness, and that this may have explained his being passed over for promotion to divisional command in WW1. But Bowman believes there were mitigating factors. "He was a brave soldier and effective leader of men. He was well qualified to hold divisional command, but so were many others, and his habit of turning up in the front line and getting himself injured didn't bode well for his ability to manage a division. "Given the primitive communications of the time, and the amount of bureaucracy involved, commanding a division in WW1 did involve a lot of office time, which didn't seem to be his forte."

Carton de Wiart lived in Poland for most of the inter-war period but his military career was not yet over. When World War Two broke out, he led a campaign in Norway in 1940 and was briefly stationed in Northern Ireland. In April 1941 he was dispatched to form a British military mission in Yugoslavia, but his aircraft was shot down over the Mediterranean. After swimming to shore, he was captured by the Italians. Despite being in his 60s, he made numerous attempts to escape the PoW camp, on one occasion eluding recapture for eight days - quite a feat given his distinctive appearance and lack of Italian. He was eventually released over two years later and was then sent to China by Winston Churchill to be his personal representative to Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek, a post he held until 1946.

Lord Ismay recalls fighting alongside Carton de Wiart when he lost an eye. Churchill was a firm admirer of Carton de Wiart, describing him as "a model of chivalry and honour" and writing the foreword to his autobiography.

In retirement, he eventually settled in County Cork, spending his time fishing. Having proved indestructible on the battlefield, he died peacefully in 1963, aged 83.

Military historian Lt Col James Cook, of the Royal Artillery, believes his example continues to resonate today. "Carton de Wiart did have a habit of getting injured but this is simply testament to his belief of leading from the front. He inspired his men with the simple and eternal words, 'follow me'. These words remain the mark of a truly courageous leader, be it on the Western Front a hundred years ago, or today in military operations around the world."

New Years Day Traditions in the Navy

A naval tradition has it that the youngest member of the ship's company on New Year's Eve must strike the bell sixteen times, hence "ring out the old, ring in the new"

The U.S. Navy has a long-running tradition of writing the first ship's log of the new year in rhyme. It continues to this day.

This month in History - January 1975

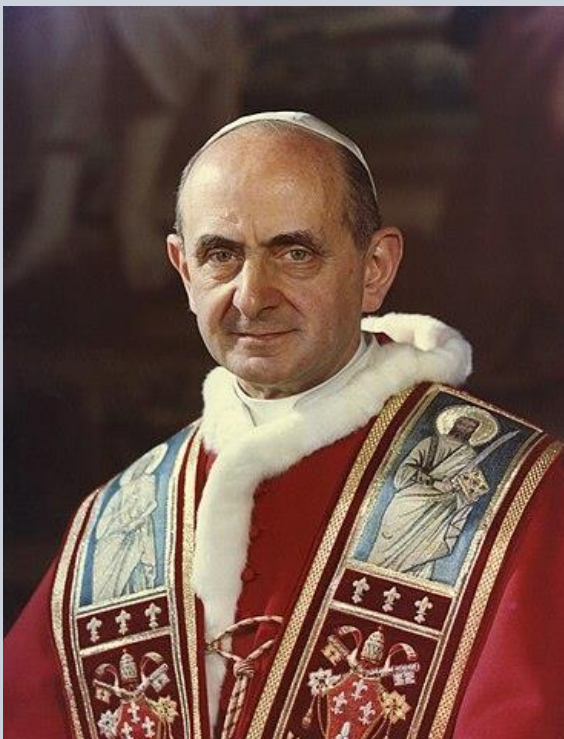
50 years ago

General

1 Jan - The Khmer Rouge began the campaign that would put it in control of Cambodia, cutting off the supply lines to Phnom Penh.

4 Jan - U.S. President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation making 55 miles per hour (89 km/h) the maximum speed limit across the United States, making permanent what had been a temporary order in 1973 by President Nixon.

10 Jan - Pope Paul VI broke a 900-year-old policy by accepting a woman as an envoy from to the Vatican.



20 Jan - Work was abandoned on the British end of the Channel Tunnel. The House of Commons approved cancellation of the project, 294–218. Work was restarted in 1986 as a private venture, and the tunnel was completed in 1994.

30 Jan - The area around the wreckage of the gunboat USS Monitor, which had sunk in 1862 was designated as the first National Marine Sanctuary in the United States. The ship, which had fought the CSS Virginia (better known as Merrimack) in the most famous naval battle of the American Civil War, had become an artificial reef over 110 years prior to its location on August 27, 1973 ([Tattler - These ships featured in last month's Tattler](#)).

Sport

1 Jan - (Cricket) England beat Australia (in an ODI match) by 3 wickets.

3 Jan - (Cricket) Western Province beat Transvaal by 108 runs. Barlow 163, Barlow 5-45 and Hobson 5--27 ([Tattler was there! -- Mean Machine? Not so much](#))

18 Jan - (Rugby) - Wales beat France 25 – 10. Click on the image below to watch some of the action.



18 Jan - (Rugby) - Ireland beat England 12 – 9.

Music



Movies





Mr Ricco was Dean Martin's last film as a leading man, but it certainly was not the most memorable.

Dean Martin, born Dino Paul Crocetti on June 7, 1917, in Steubenville, Ohio, was one of the most beloved entertainers of the 20th century. Known for his effortless charm, smooth baritone voice, and comedic timing, Martin earned his place as a multi-talented performer in music, film, television, and comedy. His journey from a small-town boy to an international superstar is as captivating as his performances.

Dean Martin was the son of Italian immigrants. His father, Gaetano Crocetti, was a barber, and his mother, Angela Barra, was a homemaker. Italian was the primary language spoken at home, and Martin did not learn English until he started school. This language barrier and his modest upbringing shaped much of his humble demeanour and self-deprecating humour.



As a child, Martin developed a love for boxing and took up amateur matches under the name "Kid Crochet." Though he showed promise in the ring, he soon realized his true passion lay elsewhere. Martin also worked odd jobs in his teens, including delivering bootleg liquor, working in steel mills, and dealing blackjack in speakeasies.

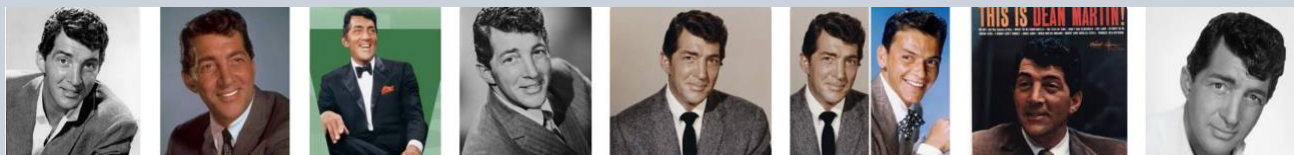
Martin's formal education was limited. He dropped out of Steubenville High School in the 10th grade, reportedly due to struggles with academics and bullying over his thick Italian accent. However, his charismatic personality made him popular with friends and local audiences. He developed a keen interest in music and began singing at local nightclubs during his teenage years.

Dean Martin married three times and had eight children. His first wife, Elizabeth Anne "Betty" McDonald, whom he married in 1941, bore him four children: Craig, Claudia, Gail, and Deana. They divorced in 1949. He then married Jeanne Biegger, a beauty queen, in 1949, with whom he had three more children: Dean Paul, Ricci, and Gina. The couple divorced in 1973. In 1973, Martin married Catherine Hawn, but their marriage ended in 1976.

Despite his fame, Martin valued family life and remained close to his children. His relationship with his children, particularly with his son Dean Paul Martin, who tragically died in a plane crash in 1987, remained a cornerstone of his life.

Dean Martin's singing career began in earnest when he teamed up with local bands and performed in Ohio clubs under the stage name Dino Martini. His breakthrough came when he signed with MCA Records and began recording hit songs like "That's Amore", "Volare", "Everybody Loves Somebody", and "Memories Are Made of This". His smooth, velvety voice and ability to convey emotion made him one of the top vocalists of his time.

In 1946, Martin formed a partnership with comedian Jerry Lewis, which skyrocketed his fame. The duo's combination of Martin's singing and Lewis's slapstick humour was a hit, especially during their appearances on stage, radio, and in films.



Martin transitioned to film and became one of Hollywood's leading men. After splitting with Jerry Lewis in 1956, Martin proved his acting chops in dramatic roles, earning critical acclaim in movies like *The Young Lions* (1958) alongside Marlon Brando and Montgomery Clift. He also starred in comedies like *Ocean's 11* (1960) and *The Silencers* (1966), showcasing his versatility.

Martin became a member of the legendary Rat Pack, a group of entertainers that included Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford. Together, they dominated the Las Vegas entertainment scene in the 1960s and brought their camaraderie to films like *Robin and the 7 Hoods* (1964).

Dean Martin's comedic talents were unparalleled, particularly during his partnership with Jerry Lewis. After their split, Martin continued to display his comedic prowess on *The Dean Martin Show*, which aired from 1965 to 1974. The variety show was a massive success, blending comedy sketches, musical performances, and Martin's signature laid-back humour. His infamous "roasts," where he humorously insulted celebrity guests, became a cultural phenomenon.

A Fear of Rehearsals: Martin rarely rehearsed for his performances. His relaxed style came from his preference for spontaneity, which added to his charm.

A Love for Golf: An avid golfer, Martin often said he only worked to support his golfing habit.

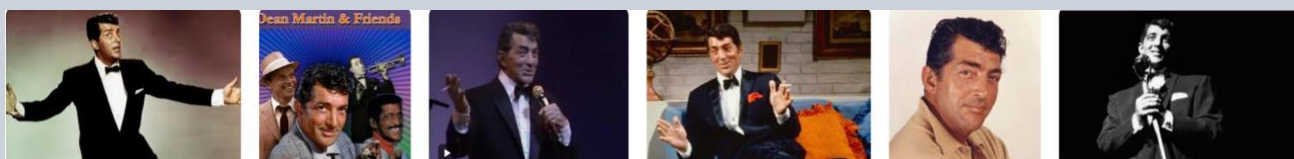
Private Nature: Despite his on-stage charisma, Martin was a private and reserved individual. Off-stage, he preferred a quiet life, often spending evenings at home or on the golf course.

An Iconic Voice: Martin's hit song "Everybody Loves Somebody" knocked The Beatles' "A Hard Day's Night" off the top of the charts in 1964, a rare feat during the height of Beatlemania.

Philanthropy: Martin was known for his charitable contributions, often performing at benefits and supporting various causes.

Dislike for Alcohol: Though he famously carried a drink on stage, Martin's glass often contained apple juice rather than alcohol. His "drunken" persona was a well-crafted act.

Dean Martin passed away on December 25, 1995, at the age of 78. His legacy endures as a symbol of elegance, humour, and timeless talent. Whether through his unforgettable songs, memorable films, or effortless comedy, Martin remains a cultural icon whose charm and talent continue to captivate audiences worldwide.



And, 100 years ago - January 1925

1 Jan - Norway's capital, Christiania, was renamed Oslo.

10 Jan - The British submarine HMS L24 sank in the English Channel after colliding with HMS *Resolution*.

20 Jan - Germany's Chancellor Hans Luther and Foreign Minister Gustav Stresemann sent a secret memorandum to Britain suggesting a non-aggression pact between Germany and all nations with an "interest" in the Rhine valley, in return for a German guarantee to respect its post-war boundaries with France and Belgium.

25 Jan - The tomb of Tutankhamun was reopened in Egypt so Howard Carter could resume his archaeological work. Carter was disappointed to find that the pall which had covered the sarcophagus was now ruined because someone in Egypt's antiquities department had carelessly stored it in a wooden shed that did not provide adequate protection from sunlight.

Tattler – Laughs

When the lawn mower broke, my wife kept hinting I should fix it, but I always had other priorities. One day, I came home to find her in the yard, cutting the grass with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched for a moment, then silently went into the house. When I returned, I handed her a toothbrush and said, "When you're done, you might as well sweep the driveway too."

The doctors say I'll recover, but I'll always walk with a limp.

My wife sat next to me as I was flipping through channels.

"What's on TV?" she asked.

"Dust," I replied.

And that's when the fight began.

One Saturday, I got up early to go fishing, but heavy rain and wind forced me to cancel.

I quietly undressed and slipped back into bed, cuddling up to my wife. "Terrible weather out there," I whispered.

Without turning around, she replied, "Can you believe my idiot husband went out fishing in this?"

And that's when the fight began.

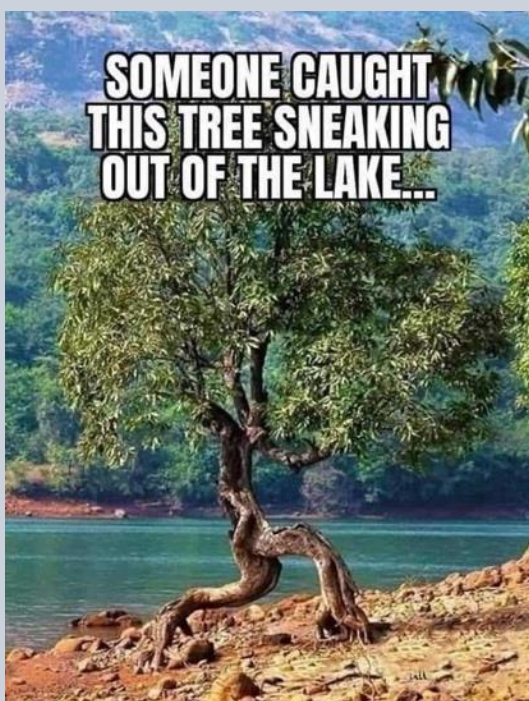
For our anniversary, my wife hinted she wanted something shiny that could go from 0 to 150 in seconds.

I bought her a bathroom scale.

And that's when the fight began.

A man rushed into a busy doctor's surgery and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded,

"Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."



BRITISH HUMOUR IS DIFFERENT

These are classified ads, which were actually placed in the U.K. Newspapers:

FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.

8 years old,
Hateful little bastard.

Bites!

FREE PUPPIES

1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.

FREE PUPPIES.

Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.

Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED.

Also 1 gay bull for sale.

JOINING NUDIST COLONY!

Must sell washer and dryer £100.

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE..

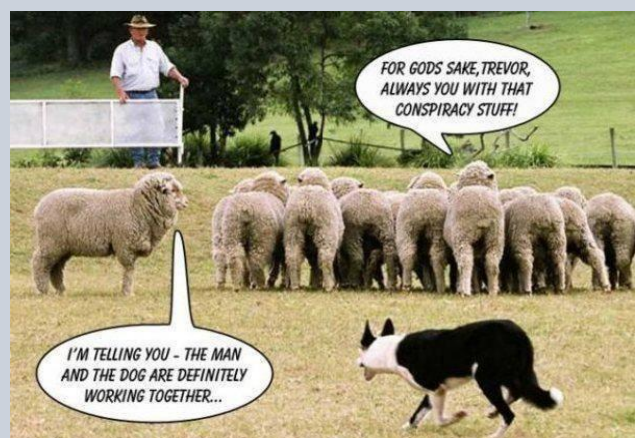
Worn once by mistake.

Call Stephanie.

FOR SALE BY OWNER.

Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 45 volumes.

Excellent condition, £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.



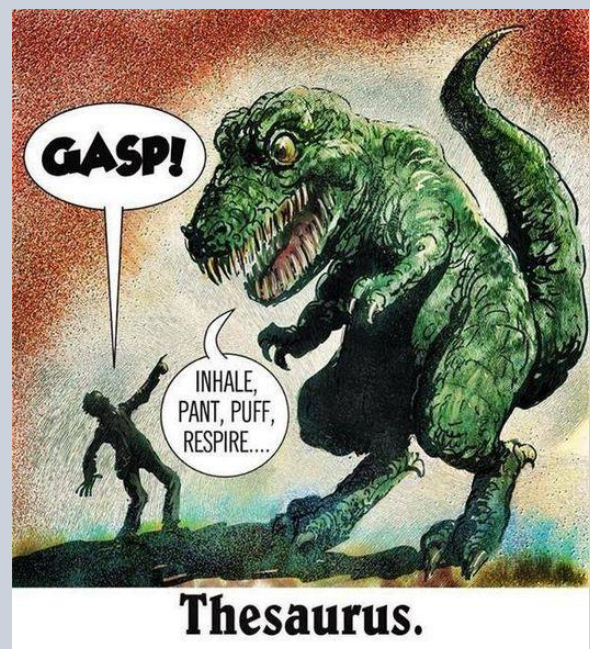
This month's video funny - Anybody got one of these at home?

Click on the image below to watch this video



Quiz answers

- 1) 5 (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island)
- 2) 8.3 million
- 3) The Hudson River
- 4) Wall Street
- 5) Brooklyn
- 6) Flushing Meadows
- 7) Staten Island Ferry
- 8) New Amsterdam
- 9) Columbia
- 10) Carnegie Hall



Thank you for following along.