

PARAM SCIENCE NEWSLETTER



DEC 2022 SCIENCE DAYS

World AIDS Day: 1st Dec

World Computer Literacy Day: 2nd Dec

National Pollution Prevention Day: 2nd Dec

National Energy Conservation Day: 14th Dec

National Mathematics Day: 22nd Dec

International Bio Diversity Day: 29th Dec

Did you know people with more birthdays live longer!

Werner Karl Heisenberg: 5th Dec 1901

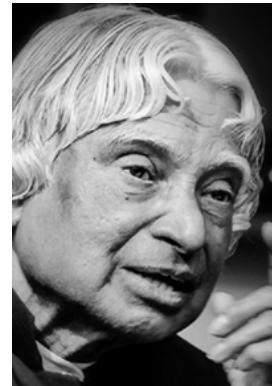
Carl Gustav Jacob Jacobi : 10th Dec 1804

Alfred Werner: 12th Dec 1866

Srinivasa Ramanujan: 22nd Dec 1887

Isaac Newton : 25th Dec 1642

The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.



War is never a lasting solution for any problem.

A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM

WAR TOOL & STRATEGY

Our first newsletter we choose to look at the science behind war. It pertains to the military, diplomatic, philosophical, social, political, psychological or economic dimensions of war in the context of science and technology.

DATA DATA EVERYWHERE

COOL COMPARISONS

COMPARING SCIENCE DATA OF WAR THROUGH HISTORY

CHEMICAL WARFARE  WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR I IS SEEN AS THE DAWN OF MODERN CHEMICAL WARFARE, WITH A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT CHEMICAL AGENTS BEING EMPLOYED ON A LARGE SCALE, RESULTING IN APPROXIMATELY 1,240,000 NON-FATAL CASUALTIES, AND 91,000 FATALITIES. A VARIETY OF POISONOUS GASES WERE USED THROUGHOUT THE CONFLICT, WITH EACH HAVING DIFFERING EFFECTS UPON VICTIMS.



TEAR GASES

(ethyl bromoacetate, chloroacetone & xylyl bromide)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Both ethyl bromoacetate and chloroacetone are colourless to light yellow liquids with fruity, pungent odours. Xylyl bromide is a colourless liquid with a pleasant, aromatic odour.

EFFECTS

Tear gases are what is known as 'lachrymatory agents' - they irritate mucous membranes in the eyes, mouth, throat & lungs, leading to crying, coughing, breathing difficulties, and temporary blindness.

FIRST USED

1914 In August 1914, the French forces used tear gas grenades against the German army, to little effect.

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

0 These gases were used to incapacitate enemies rather than to kill; symptoms commonly resolved within 30 minutes of leaving the affected area.



CHLORINE

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Chlorine is a yellow-green gas with a strong, bleach-like odour. Soldiers described its smell as 'a distinct mix of pepper and pineapple'.

EFFECTS

Chlorine reacts with water in the lungs, forming hydrochloric acid. It can cause coughing, vomiting, and irritation to the eyes at low concentrations, and rapid death at concentrations of 1000 parts per million.

FIRST USED

1915 Used by German forces at Ypres in April 1915. British forces used it for the first time at Loos in September.

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

>1,100 Number of fatalities in first battle at Ypres



PHOSGENE & DIPHOSGENE

(carbonyl dichloride & trichloromethane chloroformate)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Phosgene is a colourless gas with a musty odour comparable to that of newly mown hay or grass. Diphosgene is a colourless, oily liquid.

EFFECTS

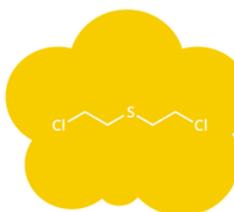
React with proteins in lung alveoli, causing suffocation. Cause coughing, difficulty breathing and irritation to the throat & eyes. Can cause delayed effects, not evident for 48hrs, including fluid in the lungs & death.

FIRST USED

1915 In December 1915, the German forces used phosgene against the British at Ypres.

ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

85% of all gas-related fatalities in World War I resulted from phosgene and diphosgene, which were both used to fill artillery shells.



MUSTARD GAS

(bis(2-chloroethyl) sulfide)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

When pure, mustard gas is a colourless and odourless liquid, but it's used as a chemical agent in impure form. These are yellow-brown in colour and have an odour resembling garlic or horseradish.

EFFECTS

Powerful irritant and vesicant (blistering agent) that can damage the eyes, skin, & respiratory tract. Causes chemical burns on contact with skin. Forms intermediates that react with DNA leading to cell death.

FIRST USED

1917 On 12th July 1917, German forces used mustard gas against the British at Ypres.

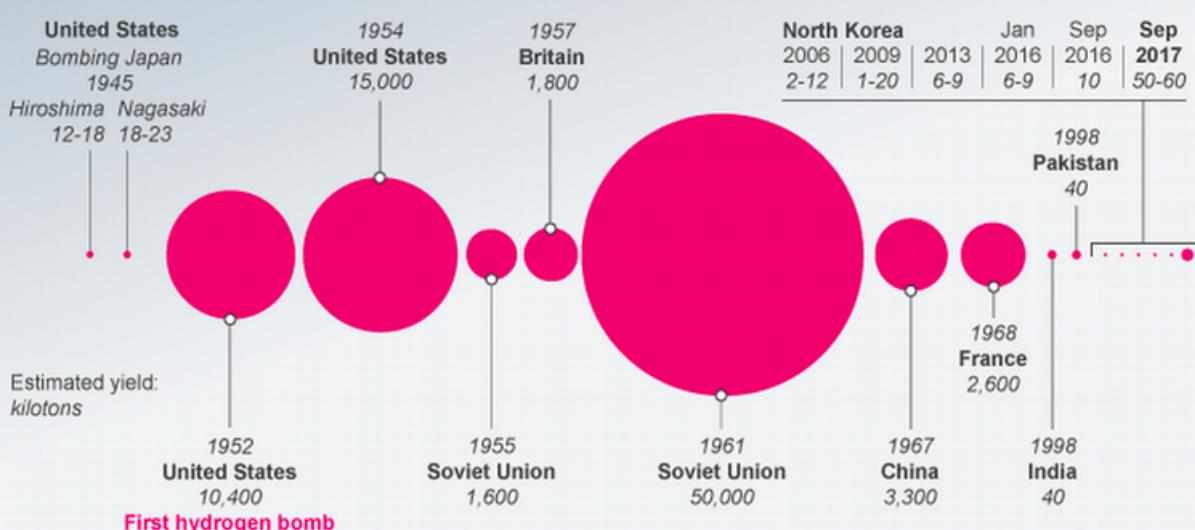
ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

2-3% mortality rate of mustard gas casualties

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For further information & references, see www.compoundchem.com/2014/05/17/chemical-warfare-ww1



Nuclear explosions compared



Source: CTBTO/nuclearweaponarchive.org/Army/Technology.com/FAS

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ANCIENT INDIAN CONTEXT

WAR FORMATIONS

THE SCIENCE BEHIND ANCIENT INDIAN WAR FORMATIONS



The army was composed of four arms (chaturanga).

- Infantry
- cavalry
- chariots
- Elephants.

They were all deployed in the field of battle in formation (vyuha), as decided by the commanders, based on factors such as the nature of the terrain and the composition of one's and one's enemy's forces. Chess was born from this concept.

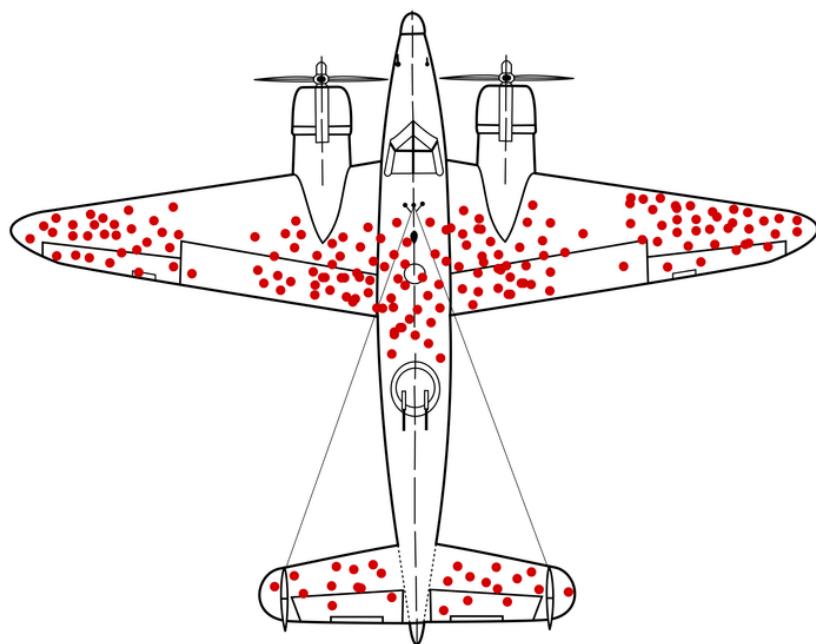
VYUHA | A "Vyuha" is a dynamic formation that continuously adapts itself to the position and situation of the war.



STORY OF THE MONTH

SURVIVORSHIP BIAS

A WORLD WAR II – WARPLANES STORY



During World War II a few warplanes had returned after missions. It was decided to strengthen the planes by adding armour on them. After measuring the bullet holes on the warplanes it was found that the fuselage had the highest bullets per unit area followed by the wings and finally the tail. While common sense seems to dictate that we reinforce the fuselage the most, the statistician Abraham Wald steps in to save the day. He suggested that the areas with least damage be reinforced.

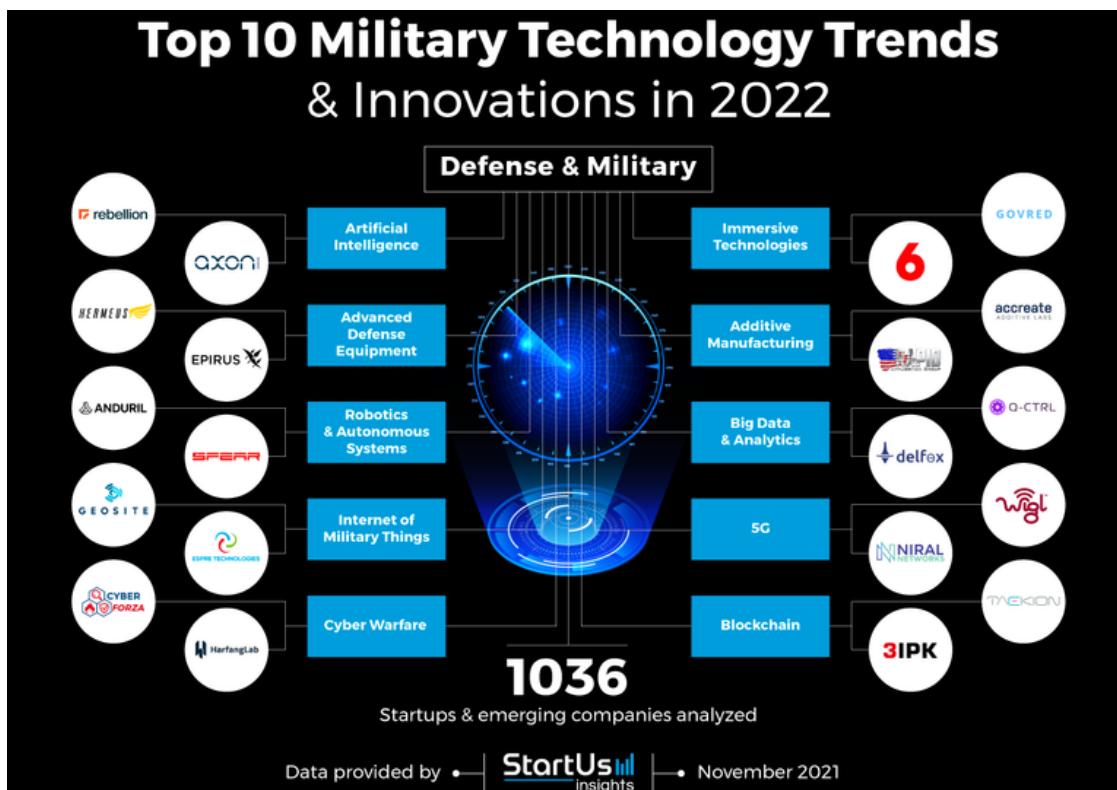
This is because we are looking at planes that actually made it back after missions. Thus areas with damage symbolised areas that the plane can get hit and still fly back to base. So the areas with minimal damage and are critical to the plane and actually need to be reinforced.

This oversight is commonly known as Survivorship Bias.

NEWS & LATEST
RESEARCH

WAR & TECH

SNAPSHOTS OF LATEST WAR AND DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY



INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRES AGNI PRIME BALLISTIC MISSILE.



DRDO is the R&D wing of Ministry of Defence, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies.



Currently, wars can't be done right with robots as they might find it difficult to discriminate between targets. They might even harm innocent civilians in certain cases. There is also an additional risk of hacking but all this will change soon..

CONTEXT OF BENGALURU

BLR FORT

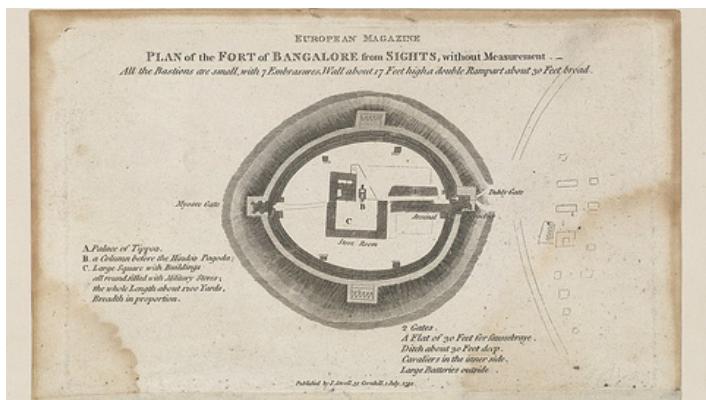


BANGALORE FORT

- The Bangalore Fort began in 1537 as a mud fort built by Kempe Gowda which is an engineering marvel.
- Hyder Ali in 1761 replaced with the fort Stone structure
- Tipu Sultan in 18th century renovated structure which stood the test of time.

The fort at Bangalore has a perimeter of about one mile.

With the capture of the Bangalore Fort the Army of British East India Company replenished supplies and obtained a strategic base from where it could attack the Capital of Tippu Sultan i.e. Srirangapatna.



In November 2012 workers at the neighbouring Bangalore Metro construction site unearthed 2 huge iron cannons weighing a ton each with cannonballs. Using carbon dating, scientists found that it was from the time of Tipu Sultan.

EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH

CHAKRAVYUHA

A DYNAMICALLY CHANGING MAZE



A dynamic maze exhibit which shall showcase the confusion and ingenuity of the Chakravyuha. The exhibit shall involve revolving partitions to simulate the true workings of the Chakravyuha. We are currently exploring the possibility of enhancing this with an AR experience.

Soldier at the blue dot is responsible to start the outward oscillatory motion by taking a step to the left. This triggers a chain reaction where each soldiers in the same ring will take a step to the left to take up the position emptied by the front soldier. The soldier in the next ring will take a step in the opposite direction (right) to trigger the chain reaction where every soldiers moves to the right to fill up the space emptied by the front soldier. So, there are seven circles of alternate clockwise and anticlockwise rotating soldiers that moves so fast that the enemy is completely lost and totally deceived into thinking that the formation is in few numbers as the actual strength of the inner rings cannot be estimated from outside the formation.

CHAKRAVYUHA

THE LOGIC BEHIND IT!



The chakravyuha as seen in the mahabharat has 7 layers. This can be unlocked by using a simple calculation as follows

Each layer = 1 divided by 7 = 0.142857142857.....

This is the pattern to break each layer. Soldiers will be entering the whirlwind of layers indefinitely. Like wise as one progresses to next layer one numeral increases.

So at the 7th layer it still increases.

$0.142857 \times 2 = 0.285714$ – Layer 2. Here the number of soldiers are doubled.

$0.142857 \times 3 = 0.428571$ – Layer 3. Here the number of soldiers are tripled.

....

$0.142857 \times 7 = 0.999999999$ – Layer 7. The number of soldiers that will be entering in batches.

Arjuna must have had an energy level higher than this. This is the mathematical trick in Chakravyuha.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

LANCHESTER'S LAWS

THE MATH BEHIND WAR STRATEGIES

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -\beta B$$

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = -\alpha A$$

The Lanchester equations are differential equations describing the time dependence of two armies' strengths A and B as a function of time, with the function depending only on A and B

The solution to these equations shows that:

- If $\alpha=\beta$, i.e. the two sides have equal firepower, the side with more soldiers at the beginning of the battle will win;
- If $A=B$, i.e. the two sides have equal numbers of soldiers, the side with greater firepower will win;
- If $A>B$ and $\alpha>\beta$, then Red will win, while if $A<B$ and $\alpha<\beta$, Blue will win;
- If $A>B$ but $\alpha<\beta$, or $A<B$ but $\alpha>\beta$, the winning side will depend on whether the ratio of β/α is greater or less than the square of the ratio of A/B . Thus, if numbers and firepower are unequal in opposite directions, a superiority in firepower equal to the square of the inferiority in numbers is required for victory; or, to put it another way, the effectiveness of the army rises proportionate to the square of the number of people in it, but only linearly with their fighting ability.

The first three of these conclusions are obvious. The final one is the origin of the name "square law".

MONTHLY CHALLENGES

WARGAMES

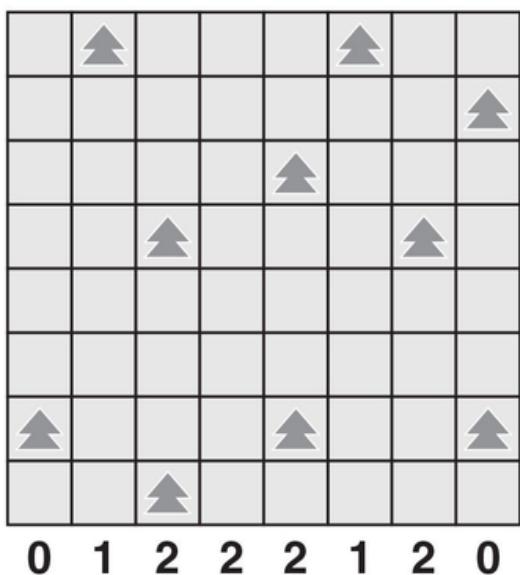
A FEW WAR THEMED PUZZLES AND CHALLENGES



= TREE



= TENT



Puzzle 1: Secret Tents

Every tree has one tent either above, below, or beside it. No tent can be in a square touching another tent (even diagonally). The numbers beside each row and column tell you how many tents are in that row or column. Can you find the locations of all tents?

Puzzle 2 : Missiles

3 cities care having a three way war. The winner is the city which survives after the destruction of the other 2 cities.

City A has nuclear bombs and never fails to destroy the targeted city. City B has Medium grade missiles and has a 50% chance of destroying the targeted city.

City C being the weakest has only 1 in 3 chances of destroying its target. C has one chance to attack, followed by B and finally A after which we return to city C. This continues in the same order till only one city is left.

Assume that everyone adopts the best strategy. Who should City C target first to have best chance of survival?

PARAM SCIENCE EXPERIENCE CENTRE

ABOUT

Param Science Experience centre is a unique experience seeks to guide young India by inspiring curiosity, nurturing creativity and establishing confidence.

The world class ticketed centre aims to ignite and inspire passion for science and technology by nurturing the seed of scientific awareness at all ages. The total centre spans indoor 1,00,000 sq feet and outdoor 1,00,000 sq feet.

This shall be a monthly themed newsletter. Every month a new theme will be chosen and presented in the context of science and technology



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