

#TRAVEL

Amazing Natural Phenomena

These stunning natural occurrences from around the world will take your breath away!



Great Blue Hole, Belize

Around the world there are many amazing sights to behold in nature. Here is a list of the 10 most breath-taking natural phenomena in the world.

Northern Lights, Iceland



From Reykjavik in Iceland, witness stunning patterns of red, blue and green in the sky. Also known as Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights are created when charged particles in the sun interact with atoms in the atmosphere. Visit between December and March for the best views.

Bioluminescent shores, Maldives



In the Vaadhoo Island of Maldives, beach waves glow in the dark. As night falls, planktons in the water emit a radiant blue light, making it seem like the water itself is glowing. Visit between June and December, and dip your toes into the sparkling waters.

Moonbow, Zimbabwe



A Moonbow is essentially a rainbow caused by moonlight. A range of factors—a full moon, enough water spray and clear skies—are required for a Moonbow to appear. At Victoria Falls on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, you're likely to catch one between June and August.

Catumbou Lightning storm, Venezuela



Catumbou lightning occurs where the Catumbou River drains into Venezuela's Lake Maracaibo. The lightning typically occurs for over 100 days in a year due to the region's unique wind and heat patterns. It's so common that locals in the area are used to the incessant storms.

Sory sol, Denmark

Every spring and autumn in Denmark, the starting birds head north in millions. The flock is so large that the sun is

The Great Blue Hole is a giant marine sinkhole off the coast of Belize. This nearly-perfect sphere of deep blue abyss was formed during the ice age when the water level used to be significantly lower. Today, it has grown larger and is a famous diving zone.

practically blocked by the birds as it sets- hence the name 'Black Sun'. The event lasts for about 20 minutes and is a sight to behold.

Caño Cristales 'Liquid Rainbow', Colombia



The Caño Cristales River in La Macarena is nature's water-colour palette. Between July and October the river features bright spots of red, yellow, green and blue. The colours appear due to the reproduction of aquatic plants in the river at the time, and create a liquid rainbow.

Pink Lakes, South Australia Love all things pink? Head to South Australia, where Lake Macdonnell and Lake Bumbunga are actually bright pink in colour. High salt concentrations, algae and pink bacteria called halobacteria lend this unique colour to the lakes.

Blood Falls, Antarctica



The Blood Falls of Taylor Glacier are named so because of their deep red colour. For years, its origins remained a mystery but in 2017, scientists discovered that the oxidised iron in the saltwater produces the rich red colour. It may look scary, but is simply science at work.

Sky Mirror, Bolivia



Salar de Uyuni in southwest Bolivia is the world's largest salt flat. Between December and April, when lake water flows onto the flat, the thin layer of water reflects the bright blue sky above. Here, you can walk over the shallow flat, with the sky above and below.



Maj Chandrakant Singh VRC (Retd) Military Historian

The Bangla elections took place at the end of 1970. The West Pakistanis on no account wanted a Bangladesh Prime Minister and did everything to oppose it. It was after the slaughter at Dacca University that Operation Searchlight took place. I saw the refugees come and it was terrible. They were streaming in wounded, smashed and beaten. On 31st of March, Indian Parliament asked Pakistan to transfer power to the Bengalis. On 29th April, we were told to assist the freedom fighters. The BSF in the border areas was then put under the Army. In early April, I got a phone call from Manekshaw saying, "Jake, government wants the Army to move in to East Pakistan". We set up a number of camps for the Mukti Bahini. At least eight to start with and later it was increased to ten eleven."

"The Mukti freedom fighters played a major role in the defeat of the Pakistan Army. They broke their morale and created an environment of fear. Due credit must be given to them for their role. We had no maps; the ones we had were fifty year old and had no relation to what was on ground. I requested freedom fighters to please get us maps. They got a complete set of maps which I gave to Survey of India in Park Street, Calcutta. These were printed in Survey of India and issued in November. We used Pakistani maps throughout the war. The only intelligence we got from RAW was two half pages. It was Signals Intelligence that gave us all the intelligence we got. By the end of April I made a draft plan and sent it to Delhi. It was done during monsoons. We doubled the capacity at



Jacob in center with Cariappa and Nathu Singh 1967 at Udaipur 4 Guards reunion.

#WAR-TALES

the railway line and got Border Road Organisation to build roads. We built up the infrastructure and logistics. When the war started everything was in place."

Limited Objectives

"The works through the monsoon and logistics were the key factor in winning this war. I want to quote (Then Chief of Air Staff) Air Chief Marshal PC Lal, a very competent officer: "Dacca was never an objective, as it was considered not possible to capture. The war had to be short, as UN would intervene. With these restrictions, the objectives were limited to get territory for Bangla government in exile." Once limited objectives were agreed to, each service did what it thought was best. The Pakistan strategy was to defend territory, towns and main roads. Therefore, we based our plans to bypass these and go for the centre of gravity, Dacca. We received Army Headquarters operation instruction on 15th of August. The war officially started on 3rd December, when Pakistan bombed our airfields. As far as we were concerned, however, the war for us had started earlier, on 22nd November. As the American fleet was moving into the Straits of Malacca. On December 13th, there was an American resolution at the United Nations, which was vetoed by the Soviet Union. The Soviets said no more vetoes. Sam Manekshaw reacted and sent us an order to return and capture 'all the towns in Bangladesh except Dacca'. All the towns we had bypassed were listed, but though we were outside Dacca, no mention was made for its capture. As these orders had also been sent

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That Man Lt Gen JFR JACOB



NIAZI, Jacob and Gavin Young at Surrender Lunch 16 Dec.

to the headquarters of the 3 Corps operating under us, we rang up the corps and told them to ignore these orders. "The Army Commander, Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora came agitated into my room, showed me the signal from Army HQ and said that it was entirely my fault as he wanted to capture the towns, but I did not support his view."

"This order of Manekshaw is still incomprehensible to me even today. The patrols of the leading battalions of Sagat's Corps had already entered the suburbs of Dacca and his artillery was shelling the Dacca Cantonment. In fact according to a report filed by Gavin Young after the war states that Niazi was ready to throw in the towel on 10th of December, when he came to know that our troops had breached the Meghna and were advancing unhindered towards Dacca. I met Gavin Young on 16th December, at Niazi's Headquarters. A photograph taken by a BBC photographer shows Niazi, Young and myself at what is now called 'The surrender lunch'. That night I got hold of General Niazi on the wireless and told him that our forces outside Dhaka were very strong, a Mukti Bahini uprising was imminent, ethnic minorities

would be protected and that they would be treated with dignity if they surrendered."

An Educated Guess

"On December 14th, I got an intercept that there was a meeting at the Government House in Dhaka. There were two government houses in Dhaka, so we took an educated guess, and fortunately it was the correct one. The Indian Air Force bombed it within two hours. The governor of East Pakistan resigned. About 4 pm that afternoon, Niazi and Major General Farman Ali went to see Spivack, the American Consul General, with the following proposals: Ceasefire under the United Nations, withdrawal under UN, handover of the government to the UN and no war crimes trials and other stipulations. I got to know about it through one of the embassies. So I informed Manekshaw, who spoke to the American Ambassador in India, who didn't know anything about it."

"That same day, the American embassy in Islamabad sent it to New York, and it was given on December 15th to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He refused to accept it. The Americans then gave it to us. On December 15th the ceasefire was



World Environment Day

Issues such as pollution, climate change, deforestation, and human overpopulation have drastically changed the way the world works. Because of the significance of these issues, the United Nations declared World Environment Day in the year 1972 to educate people about the environmental issues, giving people the opportunity to change their habits that are affecting the environment and work towards a better change. 'Only One Earth' is the slogan of this year.



Gen Jacob and author with President of Bangladesh.

It

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The Hostile Environment

"This is an unconditional surrender," he said. "You have only come here to discuss the ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Pakistani army." "General," I replied, "this is not unconditional; I have worked on this for some time. I had put in it that we would protect ethnic minorities that we would ensure the safety of them and their families; that they would be treated with dignity as officers and men according to the Geneva Convention. So it is not unconditional. Where would you find all these conditions laid down?" But he said no. I listened to the arguments for some time. His aides like Farman Ali were advising him not to surrender. Finally, I told him, "Look General, you surrender, I will ensure your safety, the safety of your families, ethnic minorities, everyone. You will be treated with respect. If you don't, I am afraid I can take no responsibility for what happens to you or your families. What is more, we will have no other option but to order the immediate resumption of hostilities. I give you 30 minutes." I walked out.

"Aurora was supposed to land soon to sign the instrument of surrender. I fervently hoped he was bringing what we had sent Manekshaw. I was alone in a



Sheikh Hasina releasin Liberation 1971.



Jacob, his cousin and self signing copy of map.

very hostile environment. I was thinking, suppose he doesn't surrender, what do I do? He has 30,000 troops, we have 3,000 and he can fight for three weeks at least! The Hamidur Rehman report also says when they asked him why you surrendered Niazi told them, "General Jacob blackmailed me! He threatened to hand us over to the Mukti Bahini, and that they would bayonet us." All rubbish. I did pressure him but I didn't say I would hand him over to the Mukti Bahini for them to be massacred. I said I would not be responsible. That's a lie."

"In fact, in the Hamidur Rehman report, one of the officers who were present said Jacob never used the word bayonet. As always, I was wondering what was going to happen as I walked back after half an hour. The paper I gave him was lying on the table. "General, do you accept this paper?" I asked. He kept quiet, he didn't answer. I asked him three times. So I picked it up, held it high and said, "I take it that it is accepted." There were tears in his eyes. There were glares from the other Pakistani generals and admirals. I had no advice, no orders, other than to get a surrender. I didn't know what was going to be signed. What came to be signed had to be re-signed in Calcutta two weeks later. The signed document was wrong. "I will surrender in my office," Niazi said. I said no, I have already given instructions that you will surrender at the racecourse, in front of the people of Dhaka. "I won't," he said. "You will," I said. "You will also provide a guard of honour." I made my own modalities for the surrender."

The Unique Conversion

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"I don't know why, but I felt he wanted to shoot Niazi. If Niazi was killed at the

'Liberation 1971'

This account by General Jacob should have been published last year on Jacob's hundredth birth anniversary and it would have been had not Covid distracted me. But better late than never.

Lt Gen Jacob was born on 2nd May 1921 in Calcutta to émigré Baghdadi Jewish parents. He was their middle one of their three sons; the elder was Maurice and younger Eric. He joined the Indian Army Corps of Artillery in 1942, during the Second World War and thereafter gradually rising to the rank of Lt General and Army Commander, after retirement he became the Governor of Goa and Punjab. His greatest moment which has given him a permanent place in the history of India and Bangladesh came in 1971 during the Bangladesh Liberation War. When as Chief of Staff Eastern Command he was responsible for both the logistics and operational planning of our campaign in East Pakistan. The crowning moment of his life and career was 16 December when he negotiated and enforced the surrender of Lt Gen Niazi and 93000 Pakistani troops, bringing to a happy conclusion a glorious chapter in the histories of India and Bangladesh, and a shameful one for Pakistan.

Today, I do not think there is anyone alive who knew Jacob better than I do. Although there was a vast difference in age, of twenty two years to be exact, and rank, he Lt Gen and I a lovely Major, we shared a close friendship which continued till his death on 13 January 2016, at the age of 94. He had no family in India as most of them had migrated to the USA and over the years since our first meeting in 1967 when he took over 12 Division at Jodhpur he treated me like a young sibling or a son he never had. I think what drew him to me was our common interest in Western classical music, art and writing. I recall the many

happy hours I spent in his flat drinking his whiskey and conversing on topics that interested us, sometimes he would tell me things about some of our famous soldiers and politicians which are best forgotten for I do not think he would have wanted me to retell to others what he told me in confidence. Whenever some relation of his came to see him from overseas, he would ask me to look after them and on a couple of occasions when his flat in Som Vihar, RK Puram Delhi, was undergoing renovation they even stayed with us.

More than a decade ago I along with Major General Dhruv Katoch had initiated the initiative to organize a joint seminar with our Bangladesh counterparts; it was the first of its kind to have taken place in India or Bangladesh. Amongst the speakers were Mr Jaswant Singh, Mr KP Singhdeo former Defence Minister, who as a sitting member of the Lok Sabha and had taken part in the war as a Territorial Army Officer, and Maj Gen Lachman Singh Lehl, who commanded a Division in 1971. From the Bangladesh side was Lt Col Sajjad Zahir who is also the recipient of the Padma Shree and Mahbub Saleh Hassan the acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh. I had their speeches recorded and transcribed, and submitting them for publication to Rashtradrudh which they will publish later at the appropriate time. None of these accounts has been published before. During the seminar Maj Gen Dhruv Katoch, Col Sajjad and I decided to publish a book that would be jointly authored by veterans from India and Bangladesh. The outcome was 'Liberation 1971' which was released in India by HE Mr Abdul Hamid, the President of Bangladesh, in the presence of Gen Jacob. Later HE Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, released the book in Dacca in 2017.

To Major Chandrakant Singh, a very gallant and brave officer of 4 Guands. With all good wishes, Jack Jacob Lt Gen (Retd) former Governor Goa Punjab and administrator Chandrakant.

I concluded my speech with a tribute to the General with these words: "Sir, in honouring you, we honour ourselves. Gen Jacob along with the other two heroes of the Bangladesh Liberation War, General Sagat Singh and Air Vice Marshal Chandan Singh have earned a pride of place in the history of our two countries. May their life and deeds inspire all our future generations."

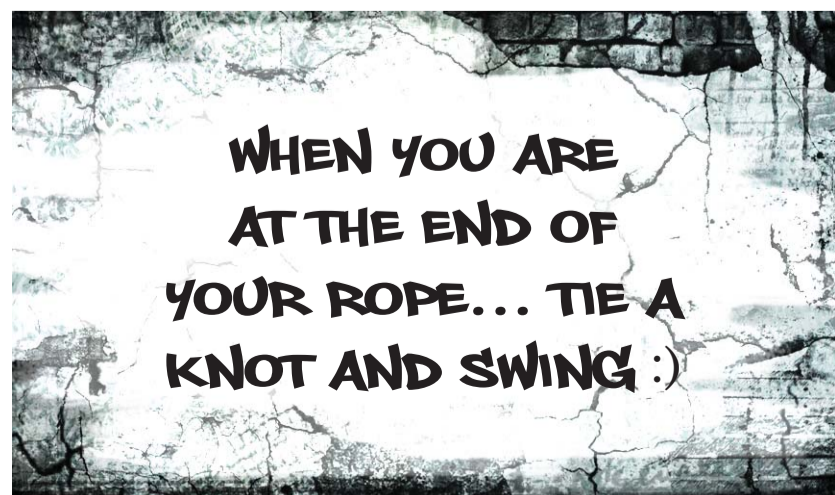
airport, there would be no surrender. I told the two para boys to shield Niazi, walk up to Siddiqui - I told the two para boys to point their rifles at him - and ordered him off the airfield. Then Aurora and his entourage, including his wife, landed. I was supposed to travel with Niazi and Aurora, but I was told to make way for Mrs Aurora. She was more important. Since everyone else had gone, and this was the last car, I hitched a ride in a truck. After the signing, the crowd wanted to lynch Niazi. We had very few troops there. So we had put a cordon around Niazi, put him in an army jeep which whisked him away. We lost 1,400 men and 4,000 were wounded. The credit for our victory should go to the officers and men who fought gallantly against stiff resistance by the Pakistanis. Due credit must go to Mrs Indira Gandhi, who displayed courage

and determination throughout the crisis. She stood up to US President Richard M Nixon and the UN, and led the country to its greatest victory. We took 93,000 prisoners. The rifle and bayonet at the Amar Jawan memorial in New Delhi belong to an unknown soldier who gave his life in the Jessore sector. Let us not forget the sacrifices.

At the end of this talk, I was asked to speak on the vote of thanks. I concluded my speech with a tribute to the General with these words: "Sir, in honouring you, we honour ourselves. Gen Jacob along with the other two heroes of the Bangladesh Liberation War, General Sagat Singh and Air Vice Marshal Chandan Singh have earned a pride of place in the history of our two countries. May their life and deeds inspire all our future generations."

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THE WALL



WHEN YOU ARE AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE... TIE A KNOT AND SWING :)

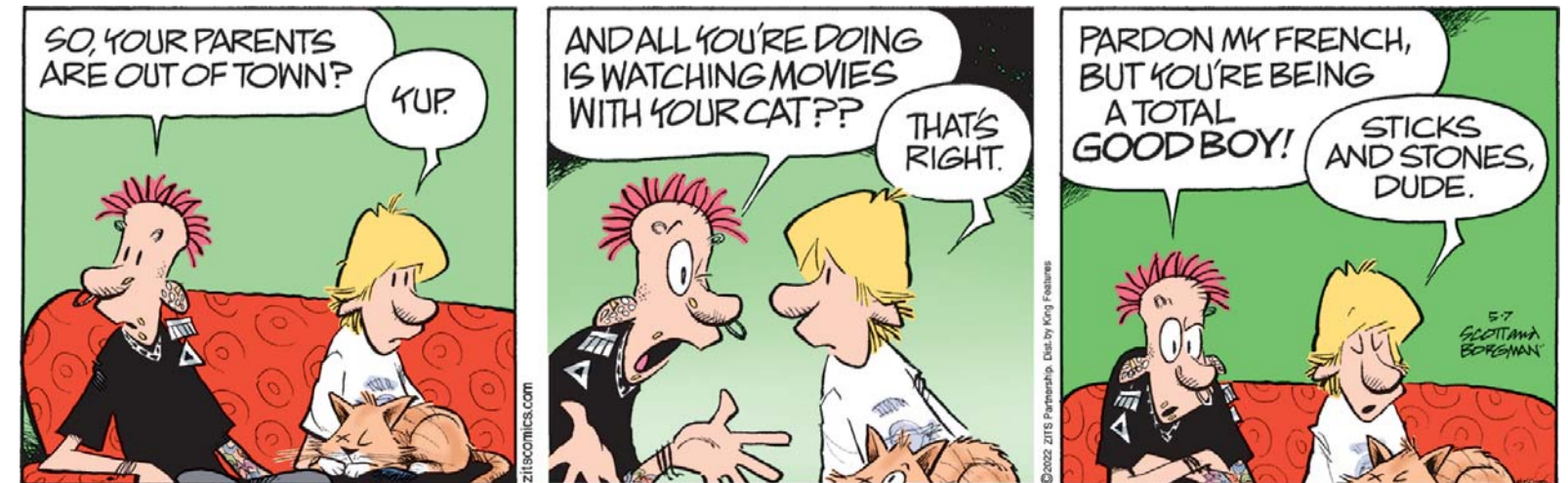
BABY BLUES



YOUR LONDON AND FRANCE IDEA IS BRILLIANT!
I'D LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER SPEARHEADING THIS EUROPEAN STRATEGY.
I ACCEPT!

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



SO YOUR PARENTS ARE OUT OF TOWN?
YUP.
AND ALL YOU'RE DOING IS WATCHING MOVIES WITH YOUR CAT??
THAT'S RIGHT.
PARDON MY FRENCH, BUT YOU'RE BEING A TOTAL GOOD BOY!
STICKS AND STONES, DUDE.

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman