As World War II in Europe was ending, Winston Churchill had his staff draw up a plan for starting World War III against the Soviets. Here’s our analysis of that might-have-been war.

**The Battle of the Crater, 30 July 1864**

The only direct attack authorized for the Army of the Potomac.

By Cam Rea

---

**Operation Unthinkable:**

Churchill’s Plan for World War III in 1945

By John Walker

---

**Italian Thermopylae:**

The First Battle of Monte Grappa

Late 1917 was not a good time for the Italians. A Central Powers offensive routed them along the Isonzo River, capturing tens of thousands of Italian soldiers and driving the rest back to the Pave River. There the Italians made a Thermopylae-like last stand that, unlike that namesake battle, actually succeeded.

By Raymond E. Bell, Jr.

---

**Subutai:**

Mongol Master of War

Subutai directed 20 major campaigns, conquered 35 polities of various sizes, and won 65 pitched battles. He routed them along the Isonzo River, capturing tens of thousands of Italian soldiers and driving the rest back to the Pave River.

By Gilberto Villahermosa

---

**US Carriers at Risk**

By Patrick S. Baker

---

**6 Operation Unthinkable:**

Churchill’s Plan for World War III in 1945

By John Walker

---

**18 Union Disaster:**

The Battle of the Crater, 30 July 1864

The only direct attack authorized for the Army of the Potomac.

By Cam Rea

---

**28 Italian Thermopylae:**

The First Battle of Monte Grappa

Late 1917 was not a good time for the Italians. A Central Powers offensive routed them along the Isonzo River, capturing tens of thousands of Italian soldiers and driving the rest back to the Pave River. There the Italians made a Thermopylae-like last stand that, unlike that namesake battle, actually succeeded.

By Raymond E. Bell, Jr.

---

**40 Subutai:**

Mongol Master of War

Subutai directed 20 major campaigns, conquered 35 polities of various sizes, and won 65 pitched battles. He overran more territory than any other commander in history. His was a record of military accomplishment unsurpassed by any who lived before him or came after him.

By Gilberto Villahermosa

---

**51 The Great Unsung Sea Mine:**

By Dave Schroeder

---

**52 Did You Know?**

By Joseph Miranda

---

**54 Flashpoints**

- Ethiopia Update: By Javier Romero
- Turkey’s Syrian Gambit: By Andrew Mulholland
- Icebreaker Wars: By Gilberto Villahermosa
- US Carriers at Risk: By Patrick S. Baker

---

**NEXT ISSUE (#334)**

**On Sale March 2022**

- Rio Grande War: What If 1865
- Italians on the Western Front 1915–18
- Battle of Falkirk 1298
- Moshe Dayan in the Sinai 1966

---

**READER SUBMISSIONS**

We welcome reader submissions on all aspects of modern military history. Articles (3,000 words) and those should be 4,500–5,500 words. Contact the publisher at his email address: doccummins@strategyandtacticspress.com for submission guidelines.

---

**ON THE COVER**

A modern-day CGI artist's view of a JS-II Soviet heavy tank aflame somewhere in eastern Germany in 1945.