

We Are At War

Chris Sullivan

75 years ago the US invaded Okinawa. They landed on April 1. Yes, *April Fool's Day*, only they called it L-Day, which stood for *Love Day*. The battle lasted until June. Recently, you may have seen a re-enactment of part of it, in the film *Hacksaw Ridge*.

My grandfather did not land with the Red Cross till April 16th, 1945. He was too old to join military forces. But he was in Okinawa until Hiroshima pretty much ended the war. His job was to document the war for the historical record, to help soldiers communicate with their loved ones back home, to help them with personal psychological, social, medical, family and other crises, and to help serve coffee and doughnuts at a rest station.

The soldiers needed refreshment. It was a tough battle. More died there than at Hiroshima. He wore a helmet. He slept in a tent. His weapon was a typewriter. He also entertained with a battered accordion until it rotted from the damp. He knew keyboards but had a hard time with the bass keys.

The Covid19 crisis is a World War of a new kind. Some very few of the enemy, is us. Many more are fighting and being killed, by a virus.

Perhaps some leaders do not remember or care about previous World Wars, or why diplomacy works, or why there are Treaty Organizations. Not only individuals need to work together. Whole cities, states, provinces, and countries need to work together to win World Wars.

Consequences for violation of these agreements must be dire. Signatories must agree that national medical systems, and people in them who save lives for a living, must be protected.

Countries must also agree that it is a vile offense to steal medical equipment like masks and shields and goggles, designed to protect those people. The

consequences must be dire, not only fines. Also there must be public shaming, and inclusion on the Public List of Fools, who go last in the lineup for hospital treatment.

In World Wars, consequences for crimes have included death by firing squad and hanging. In this war, nobody should be allowed to go without personal consequences.

I am willing to die if it will help protect my loved ones. It has already caused death among my relatives.

Soap can be part of your personal armamentarium, in this microscopic war, and help shield you. It can help you to make a better personal face mask. If cloth masks are soaked in soapy water and then dried, then when covid-19 droplets hit them, the virus in the droplets can be deactivated.

'Viruses can be active outside the body for hours, even days. Disinfectants, liquids, wipes, gels and creams containing alcohol are all useful at getting rid of them – but they are not quite as good as normal soap.'

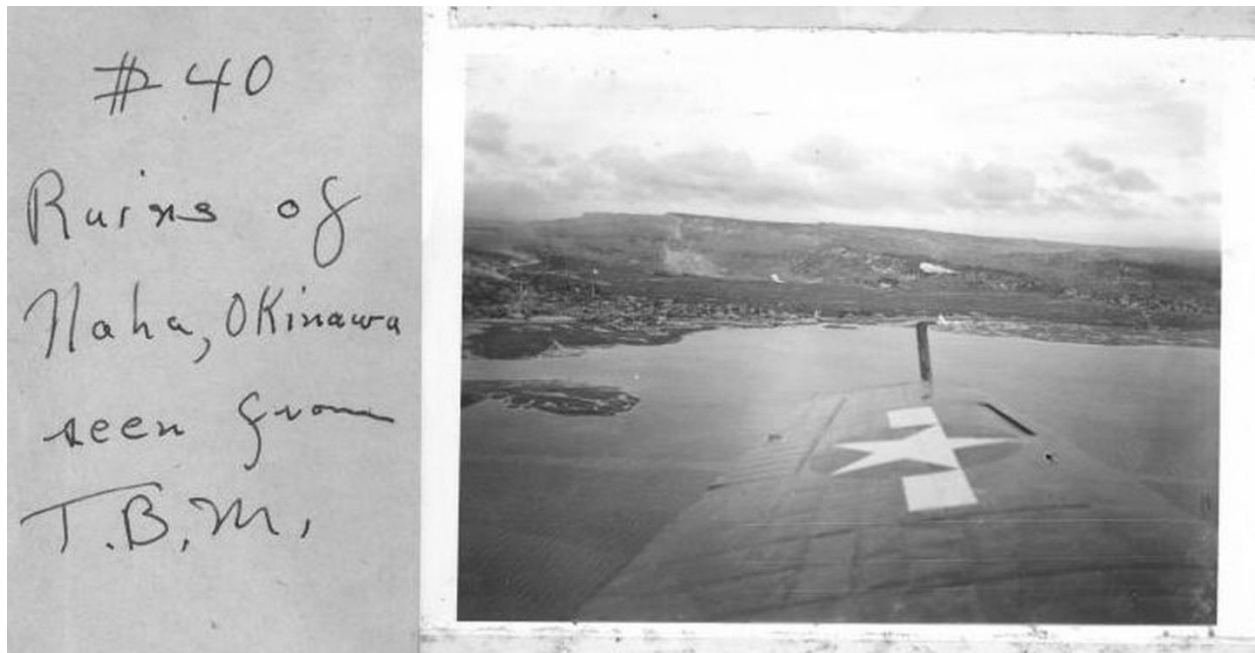
'Soap dissolves the fat membrane of the virus – and the virus falls apart like a house of cards', says Palli Thordarson, PhD, a chemist in New South Wales, Australia.

Masks will not protect your eyes. Some shampoos in dilute solution do not hurt. Many animals have died so shampoos could be tested. They can still destroy the virus. Rinse your eyes with clear water after you get shampoo in your eyes.

The best time to deactivate covid-19 is before it touches your skin or mucus membranes. After that it may be much harder to get rid of. That is why googles are preferable to cleaning your eyes with soap and water,

As it was in the 1940s, intelligence will help us defeat our enemy.

Our leaders must realize that there are precedents which have to govern our behaviour in a time of war. We were not alive then, but because our countrymen fought and died in previous World Wars, we know how to behave when the world is at war.



A TBM was a Torpedo Bomber made by General Motors when it was working under the Defense Production Act. Naha had been a major city in Okinawa. It was obliterated by massive shelling from ships, and bombs from the air, on April 1, (*Love Day*).