



MILITARY HISTORY

- 1775 The American Revolutionary War begins.
- 1836 The Battle of San Jacinto
- 1865 The American Civil War ends.
- 1917 The United States enters World War I.
- 1942 The Bataan Death March begins.
- 1948 The Marshall Plan is introduced as the European Recovery Program.
- 1949 The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is founded.
- 1975 The last American forces evacuate Saigon in Vietnam.
- 1982 The Falkland Islands War begins.
- 1989 The U.S.S. Iowa incident occurs in the waters off of Puerto Rico.

DID YOU KNOW?

The national cemetery at Rock Island includes remains from multiple cemeteries. Rock Island itself has, in the past, had several cemeteries. This included a post cemetery for Fort Armstrong and a Union cemetery. When BG Rodman was tasked to build the arsenal at Rock Island, he consolidated the post and Union cemetery into the current National Cemetery. Remains were also pulled from cemeteries in the surrounding area. The Confederate cemetery was also moved to its current site.

TRIVIA

- 1 In what century was gunpowder first used for the purposes of war?
 - 2 What was the rocket system that was used to take the first photo of Earth from orbit?
 - 3 What program was responsible for the production of the World's first surface-to-air missiles?
- Last Month's Answers:**
- 1 What was the name of the B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki?
Bockscar
 - 2 What was the main language used for encryption by the Americans during World War II?
Navajo
 - 3 What RIA structure was built as a storage and freight loading warehouse that could fit two whole locomotives?
Building 299

Answers to trivia and more are available on the ASC History Office's SharePoint page.



The Great Flood of 1993

Spring along the Mississippi River brings an assortment of thoughts to the people living along the banks of the river. The warmer spring weather for many is welcomed relief from brutally cold winters but at the same time it also means the snow is melting. That is something to rejoice about however when it melts too fast with a rapid rise in temperature it can quickly turn into a dangerous situation. In April of 1993, that sense of joy for an early spring quickly turned into a nightmare.

In the summer of 1992, the soil in the Quad City region was abnormally saturated; due to a higher than average rainfall. The following winter, saw above average snowfall followed by higher than average temperatures in the spring of 1993. Ordinarily, these patterns on their own may not be significant but the thaw of March and early April of 1993, paired with intense rain and thunderstorms quickly intensified the melt and runoff into the river. The already saturated ground meant that there was no other place for water to go.

By May, most rivers in the Midwest were out of their banks. The wet pattern that had settled over the region in the winter persisted through the spring and into early summer. Not only were communities being forced to deal with the runoff from the snowpack melt further north, but they also had to deal with as much as two feet of rain in some locations.

Nine states and 400,000 square miles were impacted by the flooding from May through September, with rivers falling below flood stage only by October. Within those nine states, fifty deaths were associated with the flooding. Damage from the flood resulted in approximately \$15 billion in monetary losses. The area of greatest impact was in transportation and navigation, with hundreds of levees failing on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

One of the largest crests on the Mississippi River was at St. Louis, Missouri. On 1 August 1993, the river crested at 49.58 feet, over twenty feet above flood stage. The flow of the river was so great, that it could have filled Busch Stadium to the brim in as little as seventy seconds. Further down stream, in Kaskaskia, citizens were forced to flee on barges, as their only link to the mainland was washed away in the raging flood waters.

Here in the Quad Cities, the river crested at 22.63 feet - seven and a half feet over flood stage - on 9 July. The water had cut off access to the Government Bridge in Davenport. On Arsenal Island, the National Cemetery had begun to flood and the Rock Island Gate was forced to close due to water covering the road on the southwest side of the island. Meanwhile, water began to inch its way closer to Quarters One getting within about thirty feet of the house.

Davenport was the hardest hit of the Quad Cities, with water overtaking River Drive, and the main post office. Trains were unable to cross on the Crescent Bridge in south west Davenport. Meanwhile, barge traffic ground to a halt from St. Louis northward due to a number of factors. The economic impacts were great. President Bill Clinton visited the water-logged Quad Cities in July to survey the flood damage in the disaster declared region.

Many locations on the Mississippi River remained flooded for over one-hundred days. Grafton, Illinois reported major flooding for over 190 days. By the time the river level fell below flood stage, around 100,000 homes had been destroyed, fifteen million acres of farmland were inundated, and a two towns were even relocated.

Today, there are several memorials and monuments regarding the flood on various points of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Most commonly, there are high-water marks on buildings and poles. Many of these marks include the flood of 1965 and 2001 as well. However, none of these crests reached the height of the flood in 1993.

Each winter a lasting snowpack often creates concern for those who live on the river. This year is no different, with water currently impacting homes and business along the Mississippi, Rock, and Wapsipinicon Rivers.



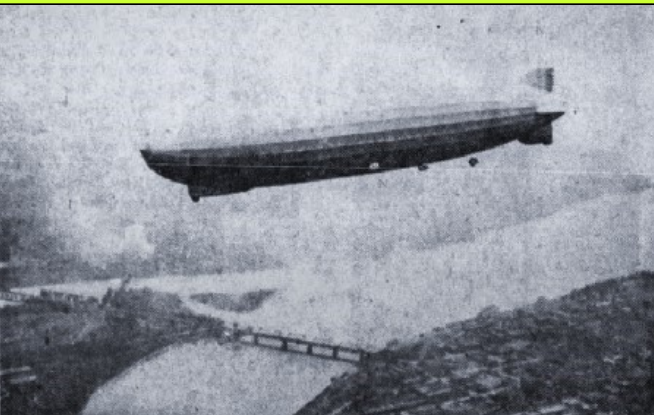
A safety reminder:
After heavy rains and/or melting ice and snow, roads can be washed out. Remember to turn around, don't drown. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUV's and pickup trucks. It only takes six inches of water to sweep you off your feet.

The *Graf Zeppelin* Visits the Quad Cities

The LZ-127, known as the *Graf Zeppelin*, was one in a series of passenger-carrying airships manufactured by the Luftschiffbau Zeppelin Company. First flown in 1928, it was the first aircraft to provide transatlantic service. This airship was filled with hydrogen and was propelled by five small gas powered engines, and could achieve speeds of up to eighty miles-per-hour.

In 1929, the *Graf Zeppelin* embarked on a twenty-one day flight around the Northern Hemisphere. The trip included stops in Los Angeles, Tokyo, and Friedrichshafen. The flight began and ended in Lakehurst, New Jersey. The path that the craft took included a fly over of the Quad Cities. At the time of the flyover, the airship was acclaimed not only for its record breaking history, but the revolutionary prospects of air travel that it symbolized.

The picture, to the above right, was submitted by Art Williams of the Daily Times and would become the best known photo of the *Graf Zeppelin* flying over the Quad City area. The picture was taken over eastern Davenport and shows the downtown district, as well as the lower end



of Arsenal Island and the Government bridge. Rock Island can be seen in the background. Note the much lower water level on the Government Bridge, due to the absence of Locks and Dam 15. Williams' photo, according to a *Sunday Times-Democrat* article, written in 1959 on the anniversary of the visit, saw sales in the thousands for years after the visit. Many of these sales included prints on calendars and ash trays and taken from a plane "so old that it had only been used as a ground trainer at Cram Field."

Pictured dated: 29 August 1929, QC-Times Archives

If you want to understand today, you have to search through yesterday.

THE ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Issue 7

April 2019

Kevin Braafladt, Historian, kevin.d.braafladt.civ@mail.mil ; Mark Struve, Assistant Historian, mark.j.struve.civ@mail.mil

Building 390, Basement Southwest.