



# MILITARY HISTORY

- 1775 Continental Congress approves construction of the first naval force.
- 1777 Washington attacks British at Germantown.
- 1812 William H. Harrison defeats the British & Indians at the Battle of Thames, Ontario.
- 1918 Alvin York leads a successful assault against the Germans at Meuse-Argonne.
- 1921 The Unknown Soldier is selected to be entombed at Arlington National Cemetery.
- 1942 The Battle of Cape Esperance ends in an American victory over the Japanese.
- 1944 Aircraft from the *USS Ranger* sink or damage 8 German ships at port in Norway.
- 1962 The Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1965 First major operation in Vietnam begins led by the 1st Cavalry Division.
- 2005 Trial begins for former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Atomic Cannon, known as *Atomic Annie* was an artillery piece designed to fire an atomic warhead. *Annie* was not the only atomic capable gun. The program included at least three other variants: a 155 mm, 240 mm, and 350 mm. After the production of the M65 Atomic Cannon ended, both a 155 mm howitzer and a 203 mm howitzer continued as atomic capable guns, including the later M198 and earlier M115, respectively. Atomic shells were removed from service by 1992.

## TRIVIA

- What was the name of the DC comic book character that visited the Rock Island Arsenal Museum?
- What was the name of the process where captured Confederate soldiers would re-enlist to fight for the Union?
- What was the supposed target landing site for the “Phantom Army” during World War II?

### ANSWERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019 QUESTIONS

- Which World War II produced tank was later auctioned off for use as a farm tractor?  
➤ **The M22 Locust Tank**
- Which RIA produced rocket launcher concept borrowed its design from typical howitzers and field guns?  
➤ **The XM70 115 mm Rocket Launcher**
- What was the name of the Sac village that was situated near the present day Black Hawk State park?  
➤ **Saukenuk**

In the August 2019 trivia, a question was incorrectly worded. The first known **American** officer to travel the Mississippi was Zebulon Pike. The first European's to survey the upper Mississippi River were Marquette and LaSalle. Even the historians won't guarantee you a perfect score at a trivia night!

For answers to trivia, information on this month's artifact spotlight, digital copies of old newsletters and more, visit the ASC History Office website at:  
<https://aschq.army.mil/About-Us/History>



## The 401st Army Field Support Brigade

The 401st Army Field Support Brigade formally traces its lineage to 16 October 2006 when it was activated as the first MTOE AFSB. While the 401st has official lineage from 2006, the unit has a longer TDA history in Southwest Asia. The 401st traces its history back to the 1997 activation of the Combat Equipment Group-Southwest Asia, charged with expanding War Reserves in the Persian Gulf Region.

While the unit was building Army Prepositioned Stock sets in Qatar and Kuwait, it underwent a series of name and organizational changes. CEG-SWA was renamed the AMC Forward-SWA in 2000 when the unit assumed responsibility for the Logistics Assistance Program and LOGCAP in SWA. The unit began war support operations in SWA in October of 2001 with support to U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. The HQ moved from Qatar to Kuwait in the Fall of 2002 as part of the ramp up to Operation Iraqi Freedom. At about the same time, the unit began to be called the AMC Logistics Support Element-SWA. AMC LSE-SWA was re-designated the AFSB-SWA on 1 October 2004. At the time the AFSB-SWA consisted of the Brigade HQ's in Qatar; LSE-Iraq; AFSBn-Qatar; AFSBn-Kuwait; AFSBn-Afghanistan; Logistics Support Activity-Iraq, and prepositioned watercraft at Kuwait Naval Base.

AFSB-SWA was deactivated on 16 October 2006 when the 401st AFSB stood up. In 2008, the brigade headquarters forward deployed to Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. At that point, the 401st had AFSBn-Bagram and AFSBn-Kandahar under its control as well as the APS battalions in Kuwait and Qatar.

After arriving in Afghanistan in 2008, the 401st provided support to all U.S. units as well as to Allied forces across Afghanistan. This support included the fielding of MRAPs, the Afghan Surge, and steady support during the slow drawdown of forces. In 2010, when the 401st AFSB redeployed from Iraq to Kuwait, C2 of all AMC assets outside of Afghanistan transferred from the 402nd to the 401st allowing the 401st to focus on Afghanistan. In its last years in Afghanistan the 401st focused on retrograde of non-mission essential equipment from the theater.

In early 2015, the 401st redeployed to Kuwait. In July the 401st reassumed command of all ASC assets in SWA as the 402nd redeployed to Hawaii. Once again, the 401st is the single face to the field for ASC and AMC in SWA.

Despite the challenges, the 401st AFSB continues to be the “First to Make a Difference” for Army forces in SWA.

## The Ghosts of Quarters One

Completed in 1871, Quarters One at Rock Island Arsenal has its fair share of recorded history. This includes stories from distinguished visitors, residents, and many others. However, the most requested stories are undoubtedly ghost tales and other strange happenings. We have included a few here for your reading pleasure.

More than one enlisted aide reported that they often heard footsteps on the third floor while working on the second floor. The aides also reported other strange occurrences, such as the windows opening and closing on their own, lights turning on and off, and items been thrown about the building while no one was home. One aide created a checklist to track when he had opened turned lights on and off.

Another series of reports came from previous residents. The reports often included hearing unidentified noises throughout the house. On several occasions the post police were called with reports insisting that someone was walking or running around on the third floor. No one was ever found in the house nor was a reason ever determined that could have produced the sounds in the house.

Enough stories surfaced while writing a short book on Quarters One that the History Office sent a survey

and floor plans to several former residents and aides. Many marked the same kinds of incidents in the same rooms.

A final story for this edition related to the call box in the kitchen. The callbox in Quarters One is notorious for many stories of how it will ring and random numbers will drop without physical input. This is despite being in apparently perfect working condition. During a recent tour the group made their way into the kitchen. As the group approached the call box a number dropped down and the bell started ringing and rang for about a minute. Thinking it was a joke the tour guide laughed and checked the room number, only to realize the number was for a room on the third floor. The third floor was empty and locked at the time.

As historians we try to always remain factual; however, there are enough accounts across time that add up to leave questions in our minds. Regardless of your belief in ghosts or the unknown, one thing does remain true: that Quarters One is a treasure for us here at Rock Island Arsenal and one of Brevet Brigadier General Rodman's many achievements that has withstood the sands of time. For more ghost stories contact the historians office.

*There is a history to everyone's life.*

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Presented to you by your friendly ASC History Office. Feel free to call or stop by our office for any of your history needs.

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