



THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

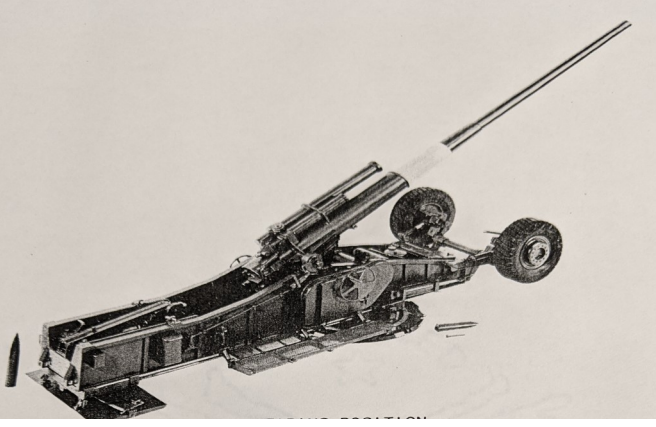
- 1794 President George Washington leads troops to put down the Whiskey Rebellion.
- 1845 The U.S. Naval Academy is established in Annapolis, Maryland.
- 1918 “The Lost Battalion” is stranded behind German lines for six days.
- 1925 COL William Mitchell’s court martial hearing begins in Washington, D.C.
- 1939 Szilard and Einstein warn FDR that Germany is planning to build an atomic device.
- 1942 The first U.S. jet aircraft takes flight for tests.
- 1967 Che Guevara is executed in Bolivia.
- 1993 Operation Gothic Serpent ends after almost two months of combat in Somalia.
- 2001 The first operations of Operation Enduring Freedom take place near Kandahar
- 2010 Last World War I reparation payment is transacted by Germany.

TRIVIA

- 1 How many different commanders have called Quarters One on Rock Island Arsenal their home?
- 2 During what years was AMC referred to as Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM)?
- 3 In its fifty-eight year history, how many commanders has Army Materiel Command had?

ANSWERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the last state that was needed to ratify the 19th Amendment?
➤ Tennessee
- 2 When was the Purple Heart reinstated as a medal?
➤ 1932
- 3 When did AFSC transition to ASC?
➤ 2006



The T-145 175 mm Gun mounted on carriage T76E1. Shown is a model rendering of the gun which was developed directly from the M65 Atomic Cannon. The 175 mm Gun was one of three different mounts that was affixed to the triple threat carriage, along with the 203 mm howitzer and the 240 mm gun. The system was designed to be fielded in as little as four minutes.

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 407th Army Field Support Brigade

The 407th AFSB was activated as a MTOE unit on 16 October 2007 at Fort Hood, Texas. Prior to that date, the 407th saw thirty-two months of service since March 2005 as the AFSB-CONUS West (AFSB-CW), a TDA unit with similar missions. AFSB-CW was initially responsible for enhancing the readiness of active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard units west of the Mississippi River, except those in Washington State.

In late 2005 AFSB-CW deployed in support of humanitarian relief operations following Hurricane Katrina. Also in 2007 Logistics Support Element Fort Carson was converted to the first Army Field Support Battalion. After the October 2007 activation as MTOE, the 407th AFSB continued the mission in the AOR. In 2010 the unit began calling itself ‘the Mighty 407th.’

In October 2012, the Mighty 407th AFSB gained mission command of its eight assigned DOLs, which grew to ten DOLs in 2013. In October 2013, the DOL “name” was changed to the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) per direction from the Army Materiel Command (AMC).

The Mighty 407th Army Field Support Brigade continues to be a critical element in Army Logistics transformation and is a key enabler of the Army’s 2020 Global Logistics structure. The 407th AFSB’s primary area of operation is thirteen states located in the old CONUS-WEST region of the continental United States, and the United States Southern Command area of responsibility. The mission of the 407th is accomplished through four Army Field Support Battalions (AFSBn), 13 Logistics Readiness Centers (LRCs), and multiple Division

Logistics Support Elements (DLSE) and a Corps Logistics Support Element (CLSE) that include the integration of Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs) each of the Life Cycle Management Commands.

Since its provisional activation, the 407th has supported major Army units deploying in support of operations in Southwest Asia. The 407th AFSB has also provided Defense Support to Civil Authorities such as Department of Defense Humanitarian efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and provided DOL assistance to multiple tornado and wildfire relief efforts. In October 2015, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, Redstone Arsenal, Soto Cano, Honduras, was aligned under the 407th AFSB.

In recent years, the 407th has played an active role in brigade deployments in support of Regionally Aligned Forces in Korea, Kuwait, and most recently in Eastern Europe. Each summer (except COVID 19 restricted 2020) the 407th directly supports the US Army Cadet Command’s training program at Fort Knox, providing food, fuel, maintenance and transportation support to thousands of cadets and cadre. The 407th plays a key role in support of the Army Agile Process, which features the integration and maturation of the Army’s tactical net- work through semiannual Network Integration Evaluations in conjunction with the Brigade Modernization Command, Army Test and Evaluation Command, Programs Manager System of Systems Integration, and the 1st Armored Division.

Suscipio Militis “Support the Soldiers” - 407th AFSB Motto

The Ghosts of Quarters One

In early 1871 General Thomas Rodman, “the Father of Rock Island Arsenal,” moved into his nearly completed masterpiece, now known as Quarters One. In June 1871 General Rodman died in the house. His funeral was held on 7 June with 1,000 mourners in attendance. The parlors, designed for formal entertainment, were used for the first time for the funeral. General Rodman never got a chance to entertain in the massive quarters he designed and built for the RIA commander. Rodman was not the only commanding officer to expire in the house. In 1918 COL Leroy Hillman, who commanded RIA less than a year, died in Quarters One, an early victim of the influenza epidemic that later swept the nation. In 1932 COL David King, the 12th RIA commander, also died in Quarters One. At least three deaths in the house, and rumors of more, are the underlying basis of a series of ghost stories relating to Quarters One. What are these stories?

The most common Quarters One ghost stories involve the sound of someone walking the hallways on the third floor, windows that open on their own, lights that turn on and off, and sightings of a shadow at the windows. Also, many people have reported that perfectly functioning doors will jam, precluding them from exiting a room or the building itself. Figures have also been reported outside the house, most commonly a Civil War era soldier leaning against a tree smoking. This figure is seen just across the street from the old Civil War POW Camp where over 500 POWs died of disease in the winter of 1863-64.

Do these ghost stories have any basis in fact? Of course, some are prone to believe and others to disbelieve. The History Office surveyed a number of past residents of the house as well as people who worked in the house for an

extended period. Many were provided floor plans and asked to mark where odd things happened.

Interestingly, people who had never spoken with each other all marked the same places on the floor plans and told the same stories- sounds of boots, shadows that move, doors that would not open, uniforms strewn around the room, and places where dogs barked for no reason. In 2009 a ghost hunter group was allowed in the house and they recorded unexplained audio and took photos of unexplained shadows and forms. None of this proves ghosts in Quarters One, but they also cannot be disproven. For now, the stories are an interesting sidelight that raises the question - Is General Rodman just lonely for someone to entertain in his masterpiece?



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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.

Kevin Braafladt, Command Historian
Mark Struve, Assistant Historian

kevin.d.braafladt.civ@mail.mil
mark.j.struve.civ@mail.mil