



## THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

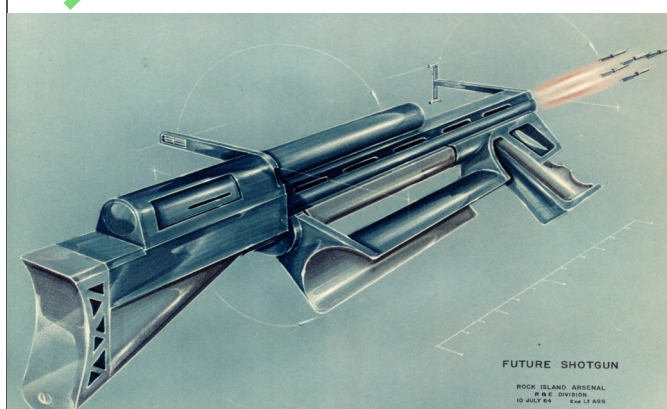
- 1776 The first American amphibious landing takes place at New Providence Island.
- 1862 GEN McClellan is removed from his post as general-in-chief.
- 1916 The Punitive Expedition launches into Mexico under GEN Pershing.
- 1942 The “K-9 Corps” is established within the U.S. Army.
- 1945 B-29 bombing runs raze Tokyo with incendiary bombs causing a large firestorm.
- 1954 *CASTLE BRAVO*, the largest U.S. nuclear test, is conducted at Bikini Atoll.
- 1963 Soviet recon aircraft fly over Alaska becoming the first to penetrate U.S. airspace.
- 1965 *ROLLING THUNDER* begins over North Vietnam.
- 1990 The USAF conducts its last flight of the SR-71 *Blackbird*.
- 2003 *IRAQI FREEDOM* begins with the first U.S. forces deployed to Iraq.

## TRIVIA

- 1 What was the first strategic, long-range, reconnaissance aircraft to be deployed?
- 2 Discovered in 1974, who was the last known Imperial Japanese Soldier holdout?
- 3 Who was the last U.S. Army officer to formally wear the insignia of five stars as General of the Armies?

### ANSWERS FOR FEBRUARY 2021 QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the main function of Fort Armstrong when it was established in 1816?  
➤ **Blackhawk War**
- 2 What was the English name of the German V-Weapons (collectively) used during World War II?  
➤ **Retribution Weapons**
- 3 What was the second formal attack on North American soil in the Pacific Theater during World War II?  
➤ **Aleutian Islands Campaign**



At the height of the Cold War, all branches of the armed forces were examining new and advanced weaponry. Some of these weapon systems were designed to not only be used on the ground, but in the vacuum of space. The flechette shotgun shown here is one such weapon system that would work in a zero gravity environment.

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>

## Operation *NEW DAWN*

As Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM continued onward into 2010, rhetoric and policy began to change in Washington. President Obama had pledged an eventual drawdown of American forces throughout Southwest Asia (SWA), and Robert Gates, the Secretary of Defense, indicated that a new operations title was needed to better frame the situation in SWA. On 17 February, Gates announced that OIF would be replaced with Operation NEW DAWN.

NEW DAWN is framed in a few different phases, including the drawdown of forces, the rise of ISIS/ISIL, and the restoration of the Iraqi Army. In the days leading up to the transition to OND, U.S. forces along with Iraqi Security Forces continued to make gains in the Global War on Terror. In particular, the 18 April ISF raid that led to the death of al-Qaeda leader Abu Ayyub al-Masri had a profound impact on the posture of the terrorist organization in Iraq.

Insurgency continued in Iraq leading up to the rise of the Islamic State organizations. Despite this, U.S. Forces continued drawn down, with the last combat troops leaving on the morning of 19 August. Remaining U.S. personnel in the region continued to offer advising and counsel to the Iraqi Army as a

means to continue to aid in counter-insurgency operations. Despite the advising role, members of the 25th ID found themselves in combat in the Battle of Palm Grove.

Drawdown was designated as complete by December of 2011, when the only remaining forces in Iraq were associated with the U.S. Embassy. Approximately 23,000 U.S. personnel remain as security guarantors to the Embassy, with other forces remaining just across the border in Kuwait.

Withdrawal of U.S. forces did not see the end of OND, nor the continued threat of insurgency or terrorist movement in Iraq. IS insurgency began to increase as early as mid-2011 with American intervention requested as early as 2013. In 2014, the U.S. redeployed forces to Iraq to aid the ISF in counterinsurgency operations. IS operations have continued in Iraq through the present day.

Despite NEW DAWN's completion at the conclusion of the Second Iraq War in 2011, issues which arose during OND and OIF continue in the region today with insurgency operations threatening to destabilize the region. Approximately 5,000 active U.S. military personnel remain in Iraq today, despite the efforts in drawdown a decade earlier.

## The Bettendorf Brothers

The town of Bettendorf, named for brothers William and Joseph, got its start just as many others in this area did- through machinery innovation. The brothers grew up around the Midwest, living in the states of Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas. While in Kansas, their father Michael worked as a federal government clerk in Fort Leavenworth. William, the eldest brother, began his inventing career while he worked for the Peru Plow Company in Illinois in 1874. He patented the first successful “power lift” sulky plow, which netted him \$5,000 in royalties. From there, he changed companies to work for the Moline Plow Company until he quickly switched jobs to become the foreman for the Parlin & Orendorff Company, located in Canton Illinois. He rounded out his tour of the major plow companies in the area by returning to Peru Plow as the superintendent. Here, he invented the “Bettendorf Metal Wheel” for use on wagons and other farm vehicles. William Bettendorf also invented machinery to better make his wheels.

With these inventions under his belt, he created his own Bettendorf Metal Wheel Company, of which he was the vice-president until 1892 when he resigned to turn his attention to another business venture. In 1894, the Bettendorf Axle Company came to be, with William as president and his brother Joseph as

Secretary. Even with owning a business, William did not stop inventing. This time it was the Bettendorf frame, a metal box used to house and support car axles rotating on bearings in locomotives. The brothers' business soon outgrew the factory located in Davenport, so the two moved to the nearby town of Gilbert. In 1903, the town of 440 citizens petitioned for incorporation, requesting to change the town's name from Gilbert to Bettendorf in honor the brothers, whose factory was a major influence in the early development of the city.

Unfortunately, in 1908 William died due to complications from intestinal cancer. At the time of his death he had 25 patents pending, although he held over a total of 100. Joseph stepped up in his brother's absence and became the new president of the company. The Bettendorf was an asset to the country during the Great War and was in charge of producing 30% of all side frames manufactured for the government during the war. Joseph was active in many industries located in Davenport, and was also active in many civic organizations. Near the time of Joseph's death, the company ceased production due to the Great Depression. After his death in 1933, his two sons were able to pull the company out of debt and begin production once more, starting in 1936.

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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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