



THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

- 1815 Andrew Jackson's Army defeat British forces in the Battle of New Orleans.
- 1861 Fort Sumter is surrounded by Confederate forces.
- 1910 America's first dreadnought, U.S.S. Michigan, is commissioned.
- 1942 Manilla falls to the Japanese.
- 1945 Hitler retreats to his underground bomb shelter. He will not emerge again.
- 1966 The Palomares Incident occurs over the Mediterranean Sea.
- 1967 Tunnel rats are used for the first time with Operation *CEDAR FALLS*.
- 1991 The first shots of Operation *DESERT STORM*.
- 1994 The last F-4G *Wild Weasel* combat mission is flown over Iraq.
- 2009 The Miracle on the Hudson takes place when Flight 1549 lands in the icy river.

TRIVIA

- 1 What was the name of the volunteer air force that was in China during World War II prior to the Pearl Harbor attack?
- 2 What was the name of the first combat submarine to sink a warship?
- 3 What was the name of the disaster relief operation immediately following the 2011 Tohoku Tsunami?

ANSWERS FOR DECEMBER 2020 QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the name of the doctrine that enabled a president to use atomic force as a means of deterrence during the Cold War?
➤ **Flexible Response**
- 2 What was the name of the military operation in 1998 that included air strikes on Baghdad?
➤ **DESERT FOX**
- 3 What was the name of the world's first test of the Hydrogen (or "H") Bomb?
➤ **IVY MIKE**



The largest caliber of artillery ever produced by the United States was the 914 mm mortar *Little David*. The mortar was not intended to be used as a combat weapon, instead it was used to test fire projectiles to study the ballistics of aerial bombs.

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>



Battle of Garmsir

In April of 2008, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) was well underway across Afghanistan and neighboring regions. The campaign had been launched in response of a coordinated terrorist attack on American soil on 11 September 2001.

The situation in the Afghani territory of Helmand in early April of 2008 was that of a stalemate. It had been in this state since December of the previous year as Coalition and Taliban forces were at a point of impasse. In an attempt to break this stalemate, Marines from the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines launched an assault on the Talbian held town of Garmsir on 28 April. *ASADA WOSA* (Live Free), as it was then called, would be entered into the historic record as the First Battle of Garmsir.

The province of Helmand is the largest in Afghanistan situated in the South Central portion of the country bordering Pakistan. The province serves as an agricultural hub for the nation, despite being mostly covered by desert, as it is served by two major rivers. As such, it was also a hotbed of insurgent activities during OEF. Garmsir is located just east of the province center on the eastern bank of the Helmand River. The river is situated center between the Margo Desert to the west and the Rigestan Desert to the east.

The operation was a coalition effort with elements from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) participating in the operation. Specifically on the morning of 28 April, members of the British 16th

Air Assault Brigade were also present. While most of the Taliban's forces were driven from the area by the end of July, U.S. Marines remained in Garmsir throughout the Summer. After 130 days of occupation, the town was turned over entirely to British security forces. During the operation, the combined British and American forces had eliminated approximately 400 insurgents in and near the town.

Conflict returned to the Garmsir region three other times between 2009 and 2011. The bulk of consistent combat operations occurred just south of the city. The first operation in Toshtay was part of *KHANJAR*. Members of the 2/8 Marines successfully drove Taliban insurgents out of Toshtay as a result adding to already mounting gains. The second and more important operation was *ROADHOUSE* which took place two years after Live Free.

Marines from the 3/1 successfully took over the Taliban fortified town of Safaar. The loss of the stronghold was a major blow to Taliban forces in the region. This coupled with the clearing of insurgents in Durzay in January of 2011 effectively broke all Taliban functions in the area. Most of the operations that continued in the area were widely isolated.

While Garmsir had relatively been secured, sorties and operations within Helmand continue today. With the withdrawal and dissolving of ISAF, the Helmand Province Campaign has been largely taken over by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to counter Talbian forces in the region.

First Battle of Seoul

The situation on the eve of 24 June 1950 was tense on the Korean peninsula. By this time, forty years of unrest in the region had gripped the Koreans. In the previous two years, communist uprisings had been sprouting across South Korea. The peninsula had been divided at the 38th parallel that same year. By 1949, the leader of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK), Kim Il-Sung, had believed that these uprisings had effectively weakened the South Koreans. After the leader's smoke-and-mirrors movement with diplomacy, the North Korean Army launched an attack on the southern capital of Seoul on 25 June 1950.

POKPOONG, as it was known, was the North Korean operation with the intent to strike hard at South Korean forces. On the morning of 25 June, armed forces from the DPRK crossed the demilitarization point that divided the two Koreas. They had done so without any formal declaration of war, taking the Republic of Korea (ROK) forces completely by surprise. By the evening of 28 June, the North Koreans had seized Seoul, driving out ROK forces.

The operation had been planned at length between Kim and his northern neighbor, Joseph Stalin. The North Korean leader had repeatedly pressed on the Soviet leader's support for a southern invasion to unite the two nations once again, however Stalin was not convinced that such an assault would be successful. That is, until after American forces had mostly withdrawn. The Soviets had continued to supply and fund the DPRK's movement into the south, and Kim had effectively communicated his intent with Stalin well ahead of the attacks in June.

Two days after the North Koreans invaded, the Americans subsequently declared war on North Korea. Most of U.S.'s initial aid came in the form of aiding the South Korean retreat to the southern and eastern beaches of the peninsula. President Truman had issued a formal statement on 30 June indicating that the movement of the DPRK had "significantly increased the threat of communism to the world", and justified American intervention in the region. The fallout from this movement on 25 June 1950 has echoed throughout time all the way to the present.

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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