



THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

- 1775 "The Midnight Ride" from Boston to Lexington takes place warning of British invasion.
- 1836 Texas secures independence from Mexican forces at the Battle of San Jacinto.
- 1865 The Civil War ends with the occupation of Richmond, Virginia.
- 1917 The United States enters World War I on the side of the Entente.
- 1942 The Doolittle Raid targets Tokyo in the first counterattack following Pearl Harbor.
- 1953 Project MK Ultra is authorized by the CIA in an attempt to counter Soviet interrogation.
- 1969 Nixon's "Vietnamization" plan to phase out U.S. troops in Vietnam begins.
- 1982 The 10-week long Falklands War begins as Argentina invades the South Atlantic islands.
- 1994 The first bombing operation in NATO history takes place in Bosnia.
- 2003 Baghdad is occupied by U.S. led coalition in the Second Iraq War.

TRIVIA

- 1 Of the two prototype atomic bombs used in 1945, which one saw production as an atomic device following World War II?
- 2 What was the principle airfield used by B-29's in strikes against the Japanese in the Pacific Theater during World War II?
- 3 What conflict in Southeast Asia erupted shortly after World War II (1948) between British forces and communist forces?

ANSWERS FOR MARCH 2021 QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the first strategic, long-range, reconnaissance aircraft to be deployed?
➤ The Lockheed U-2 Dragon Lady
- 2 Discovered in 1974, who was the last known Imperial Japanese Soldier holdout?
➤ PVT Teruo Nakamura
- 3 Who was the last U.S. Army officer to formally wear the insignia of five stars as General of the Armies?
➤ GA Omar Bradley



Unexploded ordnance is still in abundance across Europe. Northern & Eastern France, Western Germany, and Belgium are where much of this can be found. More recently, an unexploded Tallboy Bomb was discovered in Poland. Approximately 750 citizens were evacuated in the nearby town of Swinoujscie on 13 OCT 2020 as EOD detonated the bomb via remote control. (Shown above.)



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 Inchon

Following a successful, yet costly, defense of the Pusan Perimeter in 1950, the American-led coalition force in South Korea moved to launch a counterattack against the invading North. Termed Operation *CHROMITE*, the mission was to land on the Korean west coast near Inchon. Without the benefit of training, the Americans commenced the operation on the morning of 15 September 1950.

The objective of the operation was to reclaim the seized city of Seoul and to drive the North Korean invaders back across the 38th Parallel. GA MacArthur conceptualized the plan in August and intended the landing to be carried out by the Army's 2ID and the USMC 5th Marines. However, like previous planning, both units were made unavailable due to their ongoing operations at Pusan. Instead, MacArthur utilized elements from the Army's 7ID.

Logistics was the primary concern that faced 7ID and the newly reactivated X Corps. 7ID was the last Army reserve unit in Asia, and was ill equipped to stage a landing operation. Like the 2ID and 5th Marines, 7ID had also suffered from fragmentation with over 9,000 men being sent to Pusan. The intended Marine unit, 1st Marines, were also in the process of rebuilding. Thus, MacArthur was dealing

with units that were lacking in men and materiel. Training for the operation was impossible, meaning that the run on the morning of 15 September would be blind.

Disorganization, logistical failures, and inferior weapons led to rapid erosion of North Korean defenses. The Americans had also not allowed substantial amount of time to pass to enable the North to dig in along the beachhead. The first Marines landed at 0630, with landing forces amounting to around 80,000 following behind. Units had moved off the beaches by the end of the first day, but forward advance was sluggish. By 17 September, the Americans were back on track to retake the South Korean capital of Seoul.

In the subsequent battles fought after, the Americans were able to liberate the seized South Korean capital. By 7 October, American forces had driven the North back beyond the 38th Parallel and had begun to launch operations into Northern territory. Logistical issues plagued the Americans from the 38th Parallel and points north, however. Nevertheless, the Battle of Inchon acted as the springboard the launched the American efforts back into Seoul and beyond.

The Colonel Davenport House

The town of Davenport is named for a settler of the area who was a prosperous fur trader and respected citizen. Unfortunately one of the most well known facts about him is his murder in 1845. Before that time though, he constructed a home that is still standing, and can be toured to this day. Constructed in 1833, and completed in 1834 the Davenport House is one of the furthest west examples of the Federal-style architecture. It is also the oldest frame house in this area, and for many miles downriver. The structure of the house is similar to how log cabins were built: with a strong and sturdy center. The siding of the home was pine wood and the chimneys built out of Mississippi riverbed stone. Later, in order to enlarge the home, east, west, and south wings were added onto the core along with a porch that ran the length of the house. The Davenport House was the center for as many as 13 other buildings on the property that were used as warehouses and storehouses for Davenport's trading network.

Although the time between completion and Davenport's death is short, the family continued to live in the house only for a short period of time before moving to Rock Island, yet keeping ownership of the house. After the civil war, no one is known to inhabit the home, and it reached an eventual state of deterioration and was picked clean by souvenir

hunters and vandals. In the year 1906, a visiting senator, Senator Pitchforth, was shown the house and given the story of the area. Pitchforth became so upset that a community would let the home of a man for whom the town is named go to such waste, and immediately started a movement to restore the house. With the funding allotted, the main portion of the home could be restored. Davenport's granddaughters, along with their group, Old Settlers and Pioneers, were a part of this reconstruction, however it was necessary to raze the three wings of the house as deterioration had cause too much damage. After this, the house again went through a period of limbo. Not until 1966 did the Scott County Association of Home Builders take over care of the home, furnishing it with period furniture and assuring the upkeep of the previously restored central section of the home. In 1988, the home received further updates as the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation was able to raise enough funds to restore the roof, siding, windows, front porch, and to reconstruct west wing of the building. Further restoration efforts have begun, including the ground breaking for the reconstruction of the east wing in 2011.

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