



THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

- 1918 U.S. Marines are victorious against larger German forces in Belleau Wood.
- 1942 The tide in the Pacific turns as the Americans defeat the Japanese at Midway.
- 1943 The Tuskegee Airmen fly their first mission against the Axis near Tunisia.
- 1944 The Normandy Invasion puts Allied forces back on mainland Europe.
- 1950 Seoul falls to the North Koreans.
- 1981 The F-117 stealth fighter takes to the skies for the first time in Nevada.
- 1987 President Reagan makes his "tear down this wall" speech.
- 2003 Saddam Hussein's right-hand man, al-Tikriti, is captured.
- 2006 Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is killed by an American airstrike on an Iraqi compound.
- 2014 The Islamic State (IS) establishes itself and claims authority over all Muslims.

TRIVIA

- 1 Check on learning: who was the commander of Operations Support Command when it stood up in 2000?
- 2 In what war did the first self-propelled (not horse-drawn) gun make its appearance?
- 3 Which gun tubes were spec'd to be used with the U.S. Army's "Triple Threat Weapon" system in the 1960s?

ANSWERS FOR MAY 2021 QUESTIONS

- 1 What two commands were merged to create the former Industrial Operations Command?
➤ **AMCCOM & DESCOM**
- 2 What was the air campaign that was launched in 1998 against Iraq after they had failed to comply with UNSC resolutions?
➤ **Operation DESERT FOX**
- 3 What was the weapon system fielded by the USMC during Vietnam featured six 106 mm recoilless guns?
➤ **The M50 Ontos**



The last officers residence before East Avenue on Rock Island Arsenal, Quarters Six was constructed for the commander of the M1903 manufacturing program. The house across the street to the east, Quarters Seven, was constructed for the civilian deputy of the program.



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 Kosovo War

Conflict in the Balkan States is nothing new, reaching back centuries and through countless wars. Following on the heels of Tito's death in 1980, the collapse and breakup of the former Yugoslavia caused reverberations throughout the region that are still being felt today. A struggle for power to establish new geopolitical boundaries resulted in a series of wars that tore apart the region and created a humanitarian crisis. So great, were some of these conflicts in the 1990s that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was established, and additional campaigns were launched by the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) to conduct peacekeeping operations.

Breaking momentary silence following the Gulf War, the conflict in Bosnia in 1992 was the second NATO deployment in the organizations history. The war in Bosnia culminated a series of humanitarian crises that carried on all the way through the end of the millennium. As the ripples of the collapse of the former Yugoslavia continued to reverberate, war broke out between Kosovo Albanians and Yugoslav loyalists (under the flag of Serbia & Montenegro).

While tension and armed conflict had long preceded the opening shots of the war, the breakout of hostilities on a grander scale began in February of 1998. By June, NATO peacekeeping operations began in the region as well, with strict no-fly zones established, a series of aggressive air campaigns, and

a wealth of humanitarian aid being provided to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). President Bill Clinton issued a state of emergency due to national security threats on 9 June ahead of the opening of NATO operations.

The first bombing campaigns within Serbian territory did not come until the morning hours (local) of 24 March 1999. Over 1,000 aircraft and 80 naval vessels participated in the campaign, including stealthy F-117 *Nighthawks*. One of these aircraft was downed by Serbian defenses on 27 March by way of observation. Bombing campaigns continued until the war's conclusion on 11 June.

The war had caused the displacement of over 1 million Albanians living in Kosovo. Many of these refugees had been displaced by the earlier conflict in the Bosnian War. Humanitarian operations continued through 2000. Peacekeeping operations remained in place as well, due to continued tension in the region which still exists to this day. The total collapse of Yugoslavia concluded in 2006 with the nations of Serbia and Montenegro breaking out into their own respective nations in June.

Around 12,000 deaths were blamed on the Kosovo War, with many of them simply having been caught in crossfire. The majority of casualties were Kosovar Albanians. Conflict remains in the region to this day, with additional violent clashes occurring in 2000 and 2004, and conflict issues in 2011 thru 2013.

Rock Island Arsenal's Quarters Six

In 2008, the last family to live full time in Quarters One was removed. The home was deemed no longer fit for residency without an astronomical amount of updates and repairs. Instances like this happen every so often, and the family is forced to relocate. However, this situation is a bit more particular, as Quarters One was the home for the Senior Officer of Rock Island Arsenal. A family of this title cannot just be moved willy-nilly wherever, but where could they be placed? The answer was Quarters Six. Built in 1905, the foundation is of reinforced concrete with exterior walls of brick masonry with water table, window sills and lintels of stone. Interior load bearing walls are of plastered brick masonry. Floor construction uses wood with some areas of finish flooring of oak and other areas with a composition floor surfacing. Interior trim includes dark oak paneling and there are five fireplaces on the first and second floors. Architecturally, the building is representative of the period. Quarters Six resembles the design of the famous Italian renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. Palladio's idea was the home as a castle- which is visible outside and in the residence. Outside, the large

porch with Ionic columns wraps around the house embracing a stunning river vista. Inside the main foyer, double doors are crowned with an ornate Palladian window- a tell window rounded at the top flanked by two smaller rectangles. This type of window is featured throughout the home. Besides the basement, which contains eight rooms (including two stairways), there are sixteen rooms, five bathrooms, ten hallways (stairways, vestibules) and twelve closets on the first, second and third floors.

One other unique feature about the home is the presence of a sundial on the front lawn. Originally manufactured in 1874, the sun dial originally was placed at Frankford Arsenal. However several years after the close of Frankford Arsenal the sundial was brought to Rock Island arsenal and stationed at Quarters Six in 1983. It tells sun time and shows the month through a peep hole at noon each day. It is also mounted on a cut-down 105mm gun tube. At a cost of \$13,500 to build, the home is very nice and has been lived in since 1955. At current, it is the living quarters for LTG James, Commanding, First Army.

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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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