



THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

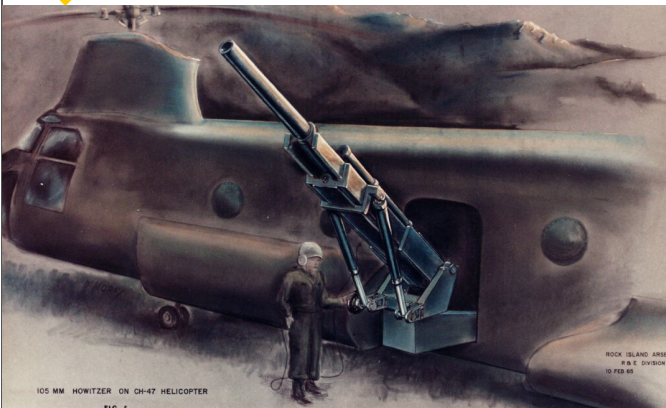
- 1861 The Army of the Potomac is formed under the command of MG McClellan.
- 1900 The Boxer Rebellion comes to an end after an eight-nation forces break the siege.
- 1914 Germany invades Luxembourg and subsequently declares war on Russia.
- 1918 American Forces with other Western Allies take Archangelsk from the Bolsheviks.
- 1944 Patton's Third Army becomes operational on the right flank across France.
- 1955 The U-2 *Dragon Lady* makes her first flight over Groom Lake, Nevada.
- 1964 The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution is passed, the U.S. formally enters the Vietnam War.
- 1976 North Koreans open fire on American Soldiers cutting down a tree in South Korea.
- 1995 The German *Luftwaffe* sees it's first combat since World War II as a NATO ally.
- 1996 Osama bin Laden declares war on the United States in a recorded message.

TRIVIA

- 1 Which assault was depicted as the final climax in the 1989 Civil War movie *Glory*?
- 2 What was the name of the intelligence operation that took place after World War II which focused on German weapons research?
- 3 What was the name of the atomic device that was used during the *Trinity* Test in Alamogordo, New Mexico?

ANSWERS FOR JULY 2021 QUESTIONS

- 1 Who is often referred to as “the father” of Rock Island Arsenal?  
➤ BVT BG Thomas J. Rodman
- 2 What area contained two paths which the Western Allies worried could be used to establish a Soviet crossing of the Rhine?  
➤ The Fulda Gap
- 3 What was the last U.S. ship sunk during World War II?  
➤ U.S.S. *Indianapolis*



A widely popular concept during the Cold War, Army Research Laboratories conducted dozens of studies on the feasibility of mounting a mobile gun or howitzer on helicopter platforms. The helicopter candidate was usually the CH-47 *Chinook*, and the proposed howitzer system was the XM204. Designs ranged from permeant mounts to collapsible mounts (pictured).

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 Heartbreak Ridge

Situated in the hills that ran along the boundary which divided North and South Korea was the county of Chorwon in Kangwon Province now within North Korea. The land ebbed and flowed along more than just the horizon but to the sky itself. Peaks, ridges, plateaus, and valleys were the main topographic feature here. One of these was that of Heartbreak Ridge, and it was in this terrain that elements of the X Corps, 2nd Infantry Division saw as operations began on 13 September 1951.

The plan for Heartbreak Ridge was to cut off a bulge in the Eighth Army's line. Attacking at Heartbreak Ridge was considered a modest ground offensive juxtaposed to the alternative options submitted to fix this bulge. One of them included an amphibious landing at Wonsan. However, it was decided after the Battle at Bloody Ridge that the loss of men and materiel would not offset the gains. GEN James Van Fleet passed orders down to X Corps to attack north of Bloody Ridge, with 2ID being tasked with taking the peaks. The orders were in place by 3 September, and operations were to commence on the morning of 13 September following on the heels of a narrow victory at Bloody Ridge.

The attack wasn't a solely American endeavor, battalions from France and the Netherlands were present for operations. The South Korean 7th Infantry

Division also took part in operations.

An artillery barrage broke out at 0530 on 13 September, and the advance on Heartbreak Ridge began at 0600. Despite heavy artillery fire prior to the advance, North Korean artillery that was in the region was especially dense and fierce. Fortified positions and porous hills resulted in a similar hellish advance to that which was seen in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

After incurring heavy losses, forward movement had stalled by 27 September. This resulted in a short-lived stagnation of movement and regrouping by UN forces. The assault renewed on 5 October with the addition of air assaults by F4U Corsairs dropping napalm bombs on enemy positions. Allied forces began their advance once again in the evening after the air raids concluded. It was realized that the only way to end the resistance of the North Korean occupation was to strike them on Hill 951. By the end of 13 October, after fierce fighting, and heavy losses incurred by both sides, all hills in the region had been taken by the Allies.

Heartbreak Ridge resulted in approximately 30,000 casualties, with the majority being sustained by the North. The evening out of the Eighth Army lines however, gave them better posture to launch more ambitious attacks into North Korea in the future.

Frontier Life During the American-Indian Wars

One of the determining factors of life in the U.S. Army on the frontiers of America was the small size of the forces engaged in operations. These forces lived in relative isolation from the country and from the rest of the Army. The Army was scattered throughout hundreds of small forts, posts, outposts, and stations throughout the American West, often with little more than a company of cavalry or infantry at each post.

During the Indian Wars, enlisted men lived in Spartan barracks, with corporals and privates in one large room. Sergeants were separated from their men, in small cubicles of their own adjacent to the men's sleeping quarters. This gave enlisted men a sense of comradeship, but allowed for little privacy.

The soldier of this period spent much of his time engaged in manual labor. Soldiers in the west were called upon to build or repair housing and fortifications, repair roads and bridges, serve as blacksmiths or bakers, perform guard duty, and other tasks.

During the 1870's the Army discouraged enlisted men from marrying. Regulations limited the number of married enlisted men in the Army and required special permission to be obtained if a man in the Army wished

to marry. Those men who did marry without permission could be charged with insubordination. They could not live in post housing or receive other entitlements. Still, nature proved stronger than Army desires or regulations. Marriages occurred and posts were transformed into communities.

Married NCO wives had a hard life, often working as laundresses or maids. Their meals consisted of beans, bacon, beef and hardtack, with eggs, sugar and other staples being too high-priced for their budgets. Many lived in dugouts, sod huts or adobe buildings. The luckier wives lived in wooden structures or stone buildings. It was a hard life for all, pay was poor, and desertion was common.



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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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