



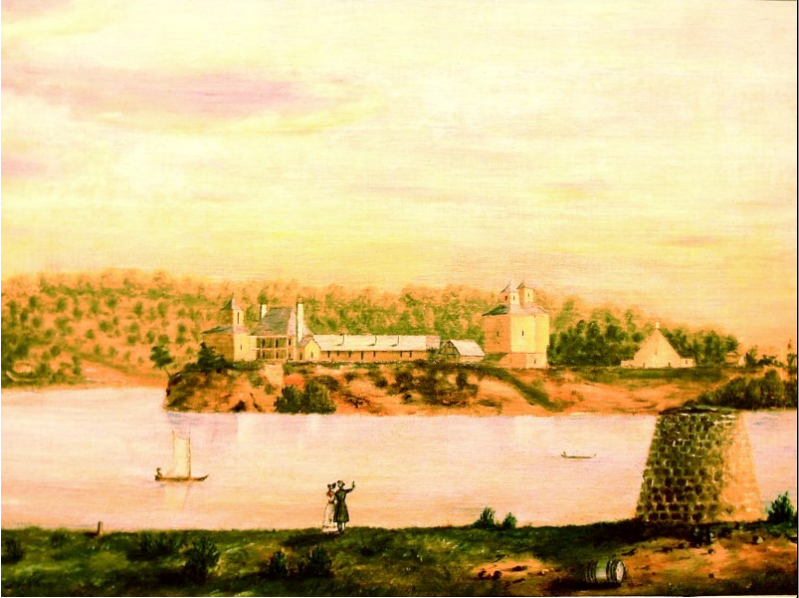
THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

The Black Hawk War

- 1916 51 The Punitive Expedition begins with the AEF crossing into Mexico.
- 1931 3 Congress adopts "The Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem.
- 1941 11 Lend-Lease begins as FDR opens his "arsenal for democracy."
- 1941 20 U.S. Intel suggests the Germans may invade the Soviet Union "soon."
- 1942 31 The U.S. Army establishes the "K-9 Corps."
- 1945 7 U.S. Army forces seize and secure Remagen bridge, opening the Rhine's eastern bank.
- 1945 16 Iwo Jima is declared secure after 25 days of fighting.
- 1965 2 Operation *ROLLING THUNDER* begins with an attack ammo dumps in North Vietnam.
- 2002 1 Operation *ANACONDA* kicks off in Afghanistan.
- 2003 3 Task Force Tarawa attacks and defeats enemy Iraqi forces at An Nasiriyah.

Following the questionable 1804 Treaty, the fallout from the 1814 Battle of the Rock Island Rapids, and subsequent establishment of Fort Armstrong in 1816, tensions with local native populations were at a peak. Continued spats of engagements between settlers, Rangers, and Soldiers continued with isolated killings up thru 1832. Fort Armstrong had been established to reduce the amount of these interactions, monitor Sauk and Fox activities west of the Mississippi River, and enforce the 1804 treaty. Just downriver from the fort sat the Sauk capital village of Saukenuk at the confluence of the Rock and Mississippi Rivers.

The preceding years of 1829 thru 1831 were difficult for the Sauk and Fox. Poor growing and hunting seasons, coupled with various demands and perceptions of favoritism for other tribes by the Americans, colored Black Hawk's vision. By 1832, he was explicitly being told to not cross back east of the Mississippi River, contradicting the 1804 treaty which had allowed the tribes to occupy limited protected sites, such as Saukenuk. But Black Hawk believed that he still was legally allowed to cross back to Saukenuk, and this, together with encouragement from the Winnebago leader Prophet, led to his fateful decision to cross the river.



On 5 April 1832, Black Hawk, accompanied by 1,500 other Sauk and Fox, crossed the Mississippi River near Saukenuk. Of the 1,500, approximately 500 were warriors, with the remaining being women, children, and the elderly. After crossing, they proceeded up the eastern bank of the river, having found Saukenuk largely occupied by American squatters. The majority of his group moved by canoe, while the warrior group moved over land. They had decided to make for the Winnebago village to the northeast and meet with the Prophet, who had supposedly sought an alliance against the Americans.



Upon meeting with the Prophet, Black Hawk discovered that he had no such interest, nor was he able to provide any assistance to Black Hawk in evading his pursuers. Black Hawk eventually tried to escape with his band back across the Mississippi, but could not do so by way of the Rock River. Though the Americans were disorganized, they were able to follow Black Hawk up the river and cut off his routes south and west. This forced him to attempt to escape to the north. General Henry Atkinson, commander of the forces at Fort Armstrong, was tasked by Illinois Governor John Reynolds with capturing Black Hawk. However, Atkinson was reluctant to do so since he believed that Black Hawk had not broken any laws.

By the end of April, Black Hawk's resources had dwindled, and Atkinson was aware of this due to open communication between himself and Black Hawk. Atkinson had attempted to delay the deployment of forces, but eventually elements of the organized militia were successful in their pursuit of Black Hawk's men. On 14 May, Major Isaiah Stillman and his men made hostile contact with Black Hawk's band, which ended any chance of a peaceful resolution.

On 2 August, Atkinson's main force had caught up to Black Hawk and his men north of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. In the ensuing battle, Black Hawk was captured and many of his followers were killed. Of the original band of 1,500, approximately 160 survived and escaped across the Mississippi. Black Hawk was subsequently sent to Washington and forced to live out his days largely disconnected from the reservation lands. He died in 1838 shortly after composing his memoirs. With the Sauk and Fox relocated well on the western side of the Mississippi, Fort Armstrong's mission was accomplished and it was subsequently abandoned. The frontier of the United States now was pushed out beyond the divide of the mighty river that bisected the country, and settlers had become more numerous and able to defend themselves in the region.

TRIVIA

- 1 What two future American Presidents served in the Black Hawk War?
- 2 What was the largest percentage of the U.S. Army to be based or supported by Ft. Armstrong?
- 3 How did Ft. Armstrong and frontier installations subsist with the incredibly long supply lines?

ANSWERS FOR FEBRUARY 2022 QUESTIONS

- 1 After the closing of Fort Armstrong, how many times did the Army attempt to sell or auction the island?
➤ **2 times**
- 2 Who was the only delegate to the Continental Congress to be photographed?
➤ **John Armstrong**
- 3 Who were the two officers tasked to accept the surrender of War Chief Black Hawk?
➤ **LT's Robert Anderson (CDR of Ft. Sumter at the Start of the Civil War) and LT Jefferson Davis future President of the Confederacy.**



OR SOMETHING

The most iconic duo in the military—probably. While the ration has been around for quite some time, the heat-pads and the terminology we have all come to know and love have not. The first time the phrase was used was in 1993 by the Combat Feeding Directorate. Originally destined to be a "simple joke", the terminology stuck and has achieved a permanent place in the U.S. Military.



Trivia answers, digital newsletters, and more history is available on the ASC History website:

<https://aschq.army.mil/About-Us/History>

- 1. History Office, Army Sustainment Command. *An Illustrated History of the Rock Island Arsenal and Arsenal Island*. Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. 2010.
- 2. History Office, Army Sustainment Command. *Misunderstandings to Massacres: The Black Hawk War of 1832, a Staff Ride*. Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. 2009.

History is being made every day at this command.

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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