



THIS MONTH in MILITARY HISTORY

The 38th Parallel

- 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 2 Task Force Tarawa attack and defeat enemy Iraqi forces at An Nasiriyah.

Known better as the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), the 38th Parallel was the approximate boundary which separates the free South from the communist North in Korea. It is the precursor to the modern Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which is situated mostly on or just north of the MDL. The line was decided upon on 10 August 1945 and adopted on 2 September. The line was drawn to define Soviet-American occupation of the nation following the defeat of Japan during World War II.

A four-nation trust was established to oversee the government of Korea for five years leading to proposed independence. The primary holders were the U.S. and the Soviet Union, with China and Britain being minor players in the trust. A subsequent U.S.-Soviet Joint Commission was established to attempt to organize a proper united government, but the antagonistic nature of the Cold War had already gripped foreign relations by this time. The difference in ideologies deepened between both the superpowers and the Koreans in the midst of this inaction.


1948, Syngman Rhee took over government control from the United States in the Republic of Korea (South). The following month, Kim Il-Sung took over government control from the Soviet Union in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North).¹

Protests and unrest continued after these leaders were appointed, however. Particularly bloody conflict had broken out largely on the dividing line, with territorial and ideological disputes being the chief cause. The division of the country was thought to be a temporary incarnation, especially following many years of Korean unity on the peninsula. The rapid escalation of tension eventually erupted into civil war in 1950.²

The North eventually invaded the South, which led to a reactionary deployment of UN forces led by the United States. The North had striven to establish its own communist government to unify Korea. The UN response initially was to drive the North back to the 38th Parallel to restore the status quo, but Syngman Rhee posited that the original MDL had been obliterated by the North's invasion. GEN Douglas MacArthur echoed these concerns, using it as a springboard to launch offensives into the North. Ultimately, the conflict resulted in an armistice rather than a peace treaty. The two Korea's have technically remained at war ever since.

- TRIVIA
- 1 What was the name of the largest winter U.S. Army exercise that took place during the Korean War?
 - 2 What was the name of the battle that Camp Henry's namesake fought in to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor?
 - 3 What large multi-national organization played a major role for the first time in the Korean War?

- ANSWERS FOR FEBRUARY 2022 QUESTIONS
- 1 What was the name of the ciphering program operated by the Allies that intercepted and decoded enemy messages?
➤ **Ultra**
 - 2 What major engagement had *Yorktown* sailed from when she entered the Midway area of operations?
➤ **Battle of the Coral Sea**
 - 3 What was the last major offensive launched by the Japanese on the offensive in the Pacific?
➤ **Battle of Midway**



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:
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The Super Bazooka

The M20 *Super Bazooka* was a modification and advancement on the pre-existing *Bazooka* and *Panzerschreck* following the end of the Second World War. The need for the modified system was established after 1942, when the Germans captured a large quantity of the original M1 *Bazooka*'s. The reverse engineered *Panzerschreck* was significantly improved over the captured American model. Following the close of hostilities, interwar, and subsequent build-up to the Korean War, the need was defined for a system to replace the aging and obsolete M1 and improve on the recaptured *Panzerschreck*.³

The original M1's 60 mm rocket and barrel was upgraded to fire and hold a larger 89 mm round. It was larger than the German model, about twenty percent lighter in weight, and had a greater range. The entire system, when loaded, weighed about twenty-four pounds and fired a nine-pound M28A2 high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) round. Late M20's and subsequent M20A1's were primarily manufactured during the Korean War for use against Soviet tanks. Many of these M20A1's were produced and manufactured at the Rock Island Arsenal where they were immediately shipped direct from the manufacturing center to the front lines.

These airlifted *Super Bazooka*'s were rapidly introduced into service following significant setbacks from the original M1 and M9 designs. In addition, changes were made to the warheads, as well as packaging and storage procedures which increased the endurance of the system, reduced maintenance needed, and reduced risk of systems dead-on-arrival.

The *Super Bazooka* remained in service after the Korean war through the initial stages of the Vietnam War. Other western nations also kept limited quantities of the M20 in reserve through the early 1980s. The United States subsequently replaced their stores of M20's with systems such as the M67 recoilless rifle and the M72 LAW rocket launcher. By the time the Vietnam War ended, all of the United States shoulder-fired rocket launchers were replaced by one of these two systems.

The system provided vital grounds for continued research in infantry carried anti-tank defense systems. One of the most innovative concepts borne of the *Super Bazooka* was the M25, a tripod-mount, rapidly-deployable, triple-shot rocket system.⁴ While this design was not adopted, research and development was carried forward into other weapons systems used during Vietnam.

1. Pembroke, Michael. *Korea: Where the American Century Began*. Hardie Grant, Melbourne. 2018. p47.
2. Robinson, Michael E. *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey*. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. 2007. p112.
3. Green, Michael; Green, Gladys. *Weapons of Patton's Armies*. Zenith Imprint Press. 2000. p39.
4. *Military Review*. Volume 81, Issue 4. 1 APR 1985.

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