



### DECEMBER IN MILITARY HISTORY

## Preservation of History at Rock Island

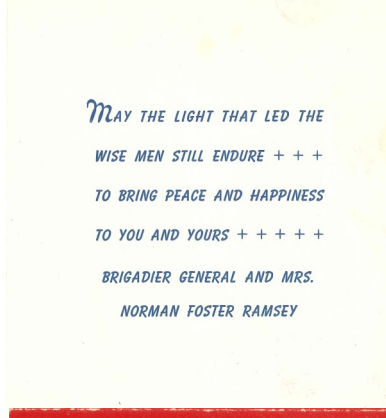
- 1846 9 The Battle of San Pasqual takes place near San Diego, California.
- 1937 12 The *USS Panay* is attacked and sunk by Japanese forces in China.
- 1941 7 A multipronged surprised attack against the Allies is conducted by the Japanese.
- 1943 5 *CROSSBOW* begins with U.S. Eighth Air Force strikes on V-1 and V-2 bases.
- 1944 15 Glenn Miller's air transport over the English Channel disappears amid turbulent weather.
- 1968 32 The survivors of the *USS Pueblo* are returned after capture by North Koreans.
- 1992 6 U.S. Marines land in Somalia to support humanitarian aid operations.
- 2001 16 The last fires under the World Trade Center are finally extinguished.
- 2003 31 Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is captured by Task Force 121 near Tikrit.
- 2003 16 Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi halts his WMD programs after negotiations.

Over the course of the last 200 years, a wealth of historic events have unfolded on the island of Rock Island and subsequent Arsenal Island. From the Sauk & Meskwaki Treaty of 1804 to the present day, it has been the site of many firsts and spanned generations of citizens in the local area. Preservation of that history is fulfilled largely by two entities: the Army Sustainment Command History Office, and the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

Within the collections and archives of each of these offices is a wealth of historical information that spans from a time when Fort Armstrong was the main establishment, to engineering reports and studies conducted by the factory as late as the 1990s. Furthermore, items are stored that reach into the present day. These documents and resources continue to provide a wealth of information and context for the Arsenal and her tenants in the present to prepare for the future.

Notable historical items include the building manifest for Building 390 (1941), weather reports from Fort Armstrong (1816-1836), a vast Technical Manuals library, RIA staff directories from the 1950s thru 1970s, relics from the Arsenal Golf Clubhouse and much more. The museum also has a vast collection of artifacts ranging from original timber from Fort Armstrong to an authentic up-armored HMMWV door to demonstrate arsenal manufacturing capabilities during *Operation IRAQI FREEDOM*. This does not count the numerous stories, drawings, and photos in the History Office's collection.

To highlight how extensive these collections are, we've compiled a few of our favorite festive photos and drawings here to warm you up while it is getting colder outside.



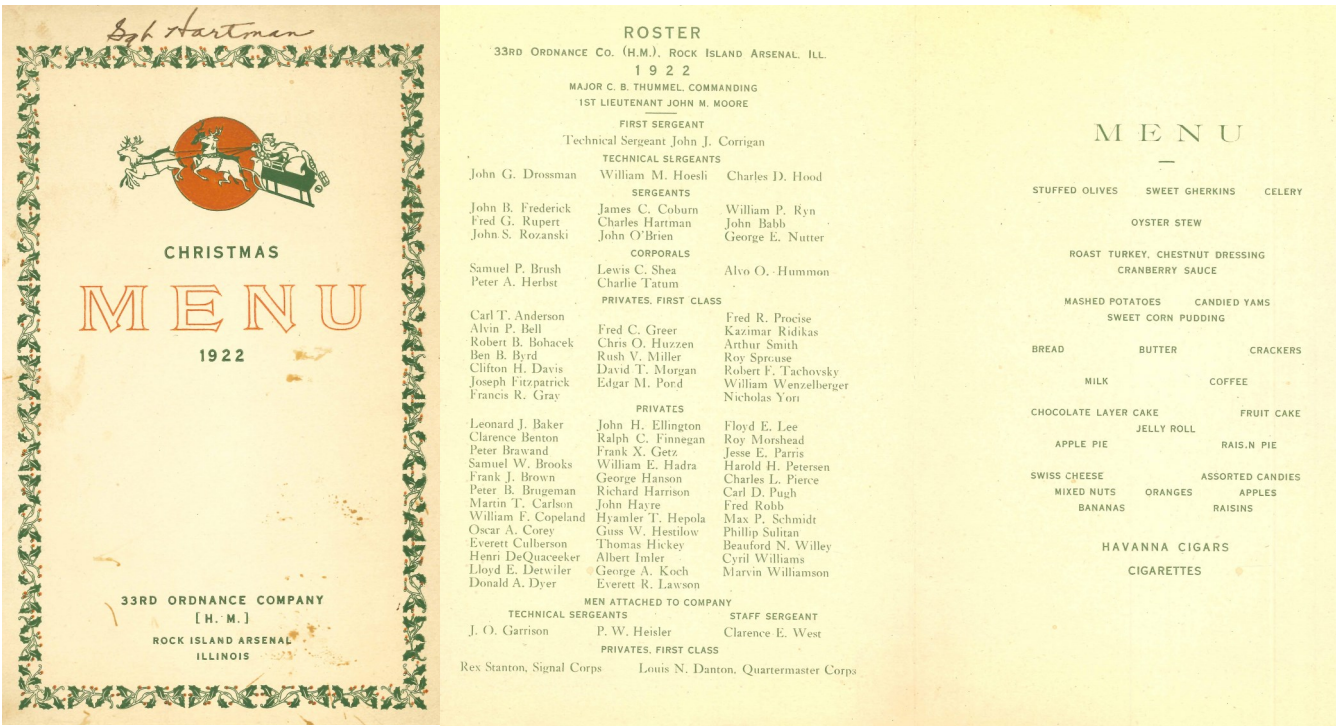
BG Ramsey was the commanding officer of Rock Island Arsenal during the majority of World War II. During his tenure at the arsenal, he engaged in a number of workforce morale events, including events at the Commanding Officer's Quarters, Quarters One.

Of note is this Christmas card he sent to the workforce:

*"May the light that led the wise men still endure...  
To bring peace and happiness to you and yours...  
- Brigadier General and Mrs. Norman Foster Ramsey*

One hundred years ago, as was tradition, there were celebratory feasts to celebrate the Christmas season at Rock Island Arsenal. These were formal affairs and usually consisted of a full day of distinguished visitors in addition to uniformed officers, NCOs, and workforce. The meals usually had a fair assortment of different meal options. The RIA Museum and Archives have menus dating to 1908. Shown below is a menu from 1922.

This particular meal consisted of roast turkey with chestnut dressing and cranberry sauce with mashed potatoes, candied yams, and sweet corn pudding. Quite the meal with a large assortment of desserts. As we head into 2023 please remember: History is being made everyday at this Command. Record it and don't forget your command historian! Share your history with the history office so we can help preserve it.



### "60 year old gun platform" in my head



### "60 year old gun platform" in reality



It's difficult sometimes to remember just how old some things are. The M1 Garand was first produced from 1934, and for many of us it is still what we think of when we hear about an "old rifle." However, the first AR-15 was produced in 1958 and the first M-16 variant appeared in 1963. In 2023, the M-16 will officially turn 60 years old. Update your memories, folks!

Trivia answers, digital newsletters, and more history is available on the ASC History website:  
<https://aschq.army.mil/About-Us/History>

Pictured in header, a photo of the dining room in Quarters One during the festive season. RIA-FMWR continues to decorate Quarters One during the holidays, mostly in the entry way and parlors.