

THE ASC HISTORY NEWSLETTER Volume 13 Issue 3SE December 2022 COMMEMORATING ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL'S 160TH ANNIVERSARY



Preservation of History at Rock Island

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.

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 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.



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DRDNANCE CO. (H.M.), ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL. ILI 1922 MAJOR C. B. THUMMEL. COMMANDING IST LIEUTENANT JOHN M. MOORE FIRST SERGEANT

ROSTER

MENU

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

MONTHLY TRIVIA

- 1 What Christmas drink did CPT John Smith invent in 1607 at Virginia Jamestown settlement ?
- 2 How many Soldiers are believed to taken part in the 1914 Christmas Truce 1914?
- **3** What was President Nixon's 11days of Christmas in 1972?

ANSWERS FOR NOVEMBER 2022 QUESTIONS

- What was Veterans Day originally called?
 - Armistice Day
- 2 In what year did Germany make their final World War I reparation payment?
 - 2010
- **3** What future president granted the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Course a license in 1905?
 - William Howard Taft
- 60 year old gun platform" in my head

DECEMBER IN MILITARY HISTORY

"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

		TECHNICAL SERGEANT		
	John G. Drossman	William M. Hoesli	Charles D. Hood	
		SERGEANTS		STUFFED OLIVES SWEET GHERKINS CELERY
	John B. Frederick Fred G. Rupert John S. Rozanski	James C. Coburn Charles Hartman John O'Brien	William P. Ryn John Babb George E. Nutter	OYSTER STEW
CHRISTMAS		CORPORALS		ROAST TURKEY, CHESTNUT DRESSING
	Samuel P. Brush Peter A. Herbst	Lewis C. Shea Charlie Tatum	Alvo O. Hummon	CRANBERRY SAUCE
		PRIVATES, FIRST CLAS	S	MASHED POTATOES CANDIED YAMS
	Carl T. Anderson Alvin P. Bell	Fred C. Greer	Fred R. Procise Kazimar Ridikas	SWEET CORN PUDDING
1922 🄛	Robert B. Bohacek Ben B. Byrd Clifton H. Davis	Chris O. Huzzen Rush V. Miller David T. Morgan	Arthur Smith Roy Sprcuse	BREAD BUTTER CRACKERS
× * *	Joseph Fitzpatrick Francis R. Gray	Edgar M. Pond	Robert F. Tachovsky William Wenzelberger Nicholas Yori	MILK COFFEE
		PRIVATES		CHOCOLATE LAYER CAKE FRUIT CAKE
	Leonard J. Baker	John H. Ellington	Floyd E. Lee	JELLY ROLL
2	Clarence Benton Peter Brawand	Ralph C. Finnegan Frank X. Getz	Roy Morshead	APPLE PIE RAIS.N PIE
	Samuel W. Brooks	William E. Hadra	Jesse E. Parris Harold H. Petersen	
	Frank J. Brown	George Hanson	Charles L. Pierce	SWISS CHEESE ASSORTED CANDIES
	Peter B. Brugeman Martin T. Carlson	Richard Harrison	Carl D. Pugh	MIXED NUTS ORANGES APPLES
	William F. Copeland	John Hayre Hyamler T. Hepola Guss W. Hestilow	Fred Robb Max P. Schmidt Phillip Sulitan	BANANAS RAISINS
	Everett Culberson Henri DeQuaceeker	Thomas Hickey Albert Imler	Beauford N. Willey Cyril Williams	HAVANNA CIGARS
···· 6	Lloyd E. Detwiler Donald A. Dyer	George A. Koch Everett R. Lawson	Marvin Williamson	CIGARETTES
33RD ORDNANCE COMPANY		EN ATTACHED TO COMP		
[H.M.]	TECHNICAL SER			
ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL	J. O. Garrison	P. W. Heisler	Clarence E. West	
ILLINOIS		PRIVATES, FIRST CLASS		
State State	Rex Stanton, Signal Cor	ps Louis N. Dan	iton. Quartermaster Corps	
The BEAD DO BOTH BEAD				

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.



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. Contact: usarmy.ria.asc.list.history@army.mil | Bldg. 390, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois, 61299

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