



Military History Anniversaries 16 thru 31 August

Events in History over the next 15 day period that had U.S. military involvement or impacted in some way on U.S military operations or American interests

- Aug 16 0000 – National Airborne Day.
- Aug 16 1777 – American Revolution: Battle of Bennington - The Americans led by General John Stark rout British and Brunswick troops under Friedrich Baum at Walloomsac, New York. Casualties and losses: US 70 - GB 907.
- Aug 16 1780 – American Revolution: Despite the fact that his men suffered from diarrhea on the night of August 15, caused by their consumption of under-baked bread, American General Horatio Gates chose to engage the British on the morning next morning at Camden, South Carolina. Although the Continentals outnumbered the British two to one, the encounter was a disaster. Casualties and losses: 900 Americans died and another 1,000 were captured - GB 325.
- Aug 16 1812 – War of 1812: American General William Hull surrenders Fort Detroit and his 2000 man army to the British without a fight. Hull, a 59-year-old veteran of the American Revolution, had lost hope of defending the settlement after seeing the large English and Indian force gathering outside Detroit's walls.
- Aug 16 1864 – Civil War: Confederate General John Chambliss is killed during a cavalry charge at Deep Bottom, Virginia, one of the sieges of Petersburg. On his body, recovered by Union forces, was found a detailed map of the Confederate capital's defenses at Richmond, Virginia, 20 miles north of Petersburg.
- Aug 16 1917 – WWI: In a renewed thrust of the Allied offensive launched at the end of July in the Flanders region of Belgium—known as the Third Battle of Ypres, or simply as Passchendaele, for the village that saw the heaviest fighting—British troops capture the village of Langemarck from the Germans.
- Aug 16 1942 – WW2: The two-person crew of the U.S. naval blimp L-8 disappears without a trace on a routine anti-submarine patrol over the Pacific Ocean. The blimp drifts without her crew and crash-lands in Daly City, California.



- Aug 16 1945 – WW2: Lieutenant General Jonathan Wainwright, who was taken prisoner by the Japanese on Corregidor on 6 MAY 42 is released from a POW camp in Manchuria by U.S. troops.



Wainwright ordering the surrender of the Philippines while being watched by a Japanese censor & Wainwright (right) and MacArthur greet, August 1945

- Aug 16 1964 – Vietnam: A coup d'état replaces Duong Van Minh with General Nguyen Khanh as President of South Vietnam. A new constitution is established with aid from the U.S. Embassy.
- Aug 16 1966 – Vietnam: The House Un-American Activities Committee begins investigations of Americans who have aided the Viet Cong. The committee intends to introduce legislation making these activities illegal. Anti-war demonstrators disrupt the meeting and 50 people are arrested.
- Aug 16 1972 – Vietnam: U.S. fighter-bombers fly 370 air strikes against North Vietnam, the highest daily total of the year; additionally, there are eight B-52 strikes in the North. Meanwhile, U.S. warplanes flew 321 missions (including 27 B-52 strikes) in South Vietnam, mostly in Quang Tri province. Despite this heavy air activity, hopes for an agreement to end the war rise as Henry Kissinger leaves Paris to confer with President Thieu and his advisers.
- Aug 17 1862 – Indian Wars: The Dakota War of 1862 begins in Minnesota as Lakota warriors attack white settlements along the Minnesota River. The Dakota, more commonly referred to as the Sioux, a derogatory name derived from part of a French word meaning “little snake”, were eventually overwhelmed by the U.S. military six weeks later.
- Aug 17 1862 – Civil War: Major General J.E.B. Stuart is assigned command of all the cavalry of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. He established a reputation as an audacious cavalry commander and on two occasions (during the Peninsula Campaign and the Maryland Campaign) circumnavigated the Union Army of the Potomac.
- Aug 17 1863 – Civil War: In Charleston, South Carolina, Union batteries and ships bombard Confederate held Fort Sumter.
- Aug 17 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Gainesville – Confederate forces defeat Union troops near Gainesville, Florida. Casualties and losses: UE 302- CSA 8.
- Aug 17 1914 – WWI: The Russian 1st and 2nd Armies begin their advance into East Prussia, fulfilling Russia's promise to its ally, France, to attack Germany from the east as soon as possible so as to divert German resources and relieve pressure on France during the opening weeks of the war.
- Aug 17 1942 – WW2: Lt. Col. Evans F. Carlson and a force of 122 Marine raiders come ashore Makin Island, in the west Pacific Ocean, occupied by the Japanese. What began as a diversionary tactic almost ended in disaster for the Americans. An accidental gun discharge upon landing alerted the defenders. Fourteen Marines were killed by Japanese gunfire, seven drowned and nine were captured and beheaded.
- Aug 17 1943 – WW2: Allied forces complete the conquest of Sicily.
- Aug 17 1943 – WW2: Schweinfurt*Regensburg Mission – An air combat battle flown by B-17 Flying Fortresses of the U.S. Army Air Forces. It was conceived as an ambitious plan to cripple the German aircraft industry. The strike by 376 bombers of sixteen bomb groups resulted in the loss of 60 bombers plus many more damaged beyond economical repair. As a result, the Eighth Air Force

was unable to follow up immediately with a second attack that might have seriously crippled German industry.



- Aug 17 1943 – WW2: The U.S. Seventh Army under General George S. Patton arrives in Messina, Italy, followed several hours later by the British 8th Army under Field Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery, thus completing the Allied conquest of Sicily.
- Aug 17 1943 – WW2: Race to Messina - U.S. General George S. Patton and his 7th Army arrive in Messina several hours before British Field Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery and his 8th Army, winning the unofficial race and completing the Allied conquest of Sicily.
- Aug 17 1943 – WW2: Operation Hydea - The Royal Air Force began a strategic bombing campaign against Nazi Germany's V-weapon program by attacking the Peenemünde Army Research Center. Delayed V-2 rocket test launches for seven weeks. 215 British aircrew members and 40 bombers were lost, and hundreds of civilians were killed in a nearby concentration camp.
- Aug 17 1950 – Korea: Hill 303 Massacre - 41 American POWs were massacred by North Korean Army.
- Aug 17 1962 – Cold War: Berlin Wall - Almost a year to the day that construction began on the Berlin Wall East German guards gun down a young man trying to escape across it into West Berlin and leave him to bleed to death. It was one of the ugliest incidents to take place at one of the ugliest symbols of the Cold War.
- Aug 17 1973 – Vietnam: The United States and Thailand agree to begin negotiations on the reduction of the 49,000-man American presence in Thailand.
- Aug 17 1987 – Post WWII: Rudolf Hess, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's former deputy, is found strangled to death in Spandau Prison in Berlin at the age of 93, apparently the victim of suicide. Hess was the last surviving member of Hitler's inner circle and the sole prisoner at Spandau since 1966.
- Aug 18 1780 – American Revolution: Following the Continental Army's disastrous loss two days earlier at the Battle of Camden, two bloody engagements leave the Loyalist and Patriot forces each with one more victory in South Carolina's brutal civil war. The British win at Fishing Creek and lose at Musgrove's Mill Casualties and losses: Fishing Creek US 450 – Brit 16 & Musgrove's Mill US 16 – Brit 223.
- Aug 18 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Globe Tavern (i.e. Second Battle of Weldon Railroad) – Union forces partially cut a vital Confederate supply line into Petersburg, Virginia, by attacking the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. Although the Yankees succeeded in capturing a section of the line, the Confederates simply used wagons to bring supplies from the railhead into the city. Casualties and losses: US 4,296 - CSA 1,620.
- Aug 18 1914 – WWI: Germany declares war on Russia while President Woodrow Wilson issues his Proclamation of Neutrality.
- Aug 18 1917 – WWI: The Italian army launches their 11th battle against Austro-Hungarian troops on the Isonzo River, near Italy's border with Austria-Hungary. In total, the Italians captured five

mountain peaks and took over 20,000 Austrian (and some German) prisoners before the offensive ran out of steam and the Austro-Hungarian line eventually held their positions.

- Aug 18 1941 – WWII: Adolf Hitler orders that the systematic murder of the mentally ill and handicapped be suspended because of protests within Germany. He ordered the program suspended, at least in Germany. But 50,000 people had already fallen victim to it. It would be revived in occupied Poland.
- Aug 18 1951 – Korea: Battle of Bloody Ridge begins which continued until 5 SEP



Allies Capture 'Bloody Ridge'

Korea Victory Ends Savage 18-Day Battle

EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Korea, Sept. 5 (UP)—United Nations troops captured for "bloody ridge" on the east-central Korean front tonight after 18 days of savage fighting.

Demoralized Communist troops broke and fled, abandoning many starved and wounded North Koreans who were taken prisoner.

The final phase of an important Allied victory was won without the firing of a shot.

Forces Withdrawn

U.N. infantrymen took the three hills along the east-west ridge line and found only wounded and half-starved North Koreans awaiting them.

The prisoners said that the defending forces had withdrawn.

- Aug 18 1965 – Vietnam: Operation Starlite begins – After a deserter from the First Vietcong Regiment had revealed that an attack was imminent against the U.S. base at Chu Lai, the Marines launch Operation Starlite in the Van Tuong peninsula in Quang Ngai Province. Marines destroy a Viet Cong stronghold on the Van Tuong peninsula in the first major American ground battle of the war. Casualties and losses: NVA 700 – US 245.
- Aug 18 1966 – Vietnam: Battle of Long Tan – Heavily outnumbered (10:1) for 3 days Australian 6 RAR Co. D held off a Viet Cong regimental assault. Casualties and losses: AUS 42 – VC 598.
- Aug 18 1968 – Vietnam: The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong launch a limited offensive in the south with 19 separate attacks throughout South Vietnam. In the heaviest fighting in three months, Communist troops attacked key positions along the Cambodian border in Tay Ninh and Binh Long provinces, northwest of Saigon.
- Aug 18 1971 – Vietnam: Australia and New Zealand announce the end of the year as the deadline for withdrawal of their respective contingents from Vietnam. The Australians had 6,000 men in South Vietnam and the New Zealanders numbered 264. Both nations agreed to leave behind small training contingents. Australian Prime Minister William McMahon proclaimed that the South Vietnamese forces were now able to assume Australia's role in Phuoc Tuy province, southeast of Saigon.
- Aug 18 1976 – Korea: North Korean soldiers killed two American soldiers in the Joint Security Area of the Korean Demilitarized Zone, heightening tensions over a 100-foot (30 m) poplar tree that blocked the line of sight between a United Nations Command checkpoint and an observation post. Led to Operation Paul Bunyan, an operation that cut down the tree with a show of force to intimidate North Korea into backing down, which it did



Remains of the tree that was the object of the 1976 axe murder incident Deliberately left standing after 'Operation Paul Bunyan', the stump was replaced by a monument in 1987

- Aug 18 1991 – Cold War: Hard-line elements of the Soviet government and military begin a coup attempt against President Mikhail Gorbachev. The coup attempt signified a decline in Gorbachev’s power and influence, while one of his most ardent opponents, Boris Yeltsin, came out of the event with more power than ever emerging from the crisis as Gorbachev’s heir apparent.
- Aug 19 1779 – American Revolution: A Patriot force consisting of 300 men led by Major Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee assaults the defensive positions of the British at Paulus Hook, New Jersey, now known as Jersey City. Lee wins one of only eight medals awarded by Congress during the war—and the only one awarded to a soldier beneath the rank of general—for his role in this action. Although the Patriots damaged the fort, took 50 lives and 158 prisoners, they failed to destroy the structure or spike its cannon before withdrawing. Thus the fort remained in British control until the war ended.
- Aug 19 1782 – American Revolution: Battle of Blue Licks - The last major engagement of the war, almost ten months after the surrender of the British commander Charles Cornwallis following the Siege of Yorktown. Casualties and losses: US 83 - GB/Indians 8.
- Aug 19 1812 – War of 1812: The U.S. Navy frigate Constitution defeats the British frigate Guerrière in a furious engagement off the coast of Nova Scotia. Witnesses claimed that the British shot merely bounced off the Constitution’s sides, as if the ship were made of iron rather than wood. By the war’s end, “Old Ironsides” destroyed or captured seven more British ships.
- Aug 19 1862 – Indian Wars: During an uprising in Minnesota, Lakota warriors decide not to attack heavily-defended Fort Ridgely and instead turn to the settlement of New Ulm, killing white settlers along the way.
- Aug 19 1934 – Pre WWII: Adolf Hitler, already chancellor, is also elected president of Germany in an unprecedented consolidation of power in the short history of the German republic. This made Hitler commander of the German army.
- Aug 19 1940 – First flight of the B-25 Mitchell medium bomber.
- Aug 19 1942 – WWII: Dieppe Raid - An Allied force of 7,000 men carry out a large daytime raid against German positions at the French seaport of Dieppe. Aided by tanks and aircraft, the commando force—made up of approximately 5,000 Canadians, 2,000 British soldiers, and a handful of American and Free French troops—gained a foothold on the beach in the face of a furious German defense. During nine hours of fighting, the Allies failed to destroy more than a handful of their targets and suffered the death of 3,600 men. More than 100 aircraft, a destroyer, 33 landing craft, and 30 tanks were also lost.
- Aug 19 1944 – WW2: Liberation of Paris – Paris rises against German occupation with the help of Allied troops.
- Aug 19 1953 – Cold War: The CIA and MI6 help to overthrow the government of Mohammad Mosaddegh in Iran and reinstate the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.
- Aug 19 1960 – Cold War: In Moscow, downed American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers is sentenced to ten years imprisonment by the Soviet Union for espionage.
- Aug 20 1794 – American Revolution: General “Mad Anthony” Wayne proves that the fragile young republic can counter a military threat when he puts down Shawnee Chief Blue Jacket’s confederacy near present-day Toledo, Ohio, with the newly created 3,000-man strong Legion of the United States at the Battle of Fallen Timbers.
- Aug 19 2010 – OIF: Operation Iraqi Freedom ends, with the last of the United States brigade combat teams crossing the border to Kuwait.
- Aug 20 1794 – NW Indian War: Battle of Fallen Timbers - American troops force a confederacy of Shawnee, Mingo, Delaware, Wyandot, Miami, Ottawa, Chippewa, and Potawatomi warriors into a disorganized retreat. Casualties and losses: US 133 - Indians 19-40 killed.

- Aug 20 1934 – Post WW1: In Flanders, Belgium, the German artist Kathe Kollwitz unveils the monument she created to memorialize her son, Peter, along with the hundreds of thousands of other soldiers killed on the battlefields of the Western Front during World War I. Entitled *The Parents*, the statue depicts an elderly couple kneeling before the grave of their son



- Aug 20 1944 – WW2: 168 captured allied airmen accused by the Gestapo of being "terror fliers", arrive at Buchenwald concentration camp. They were classified as spies and criminals so as not to warrant prisoner of war treatment.
- Aug 20 1944 – WW2: Operation Wallace –British soldiers, commanded by Major Roy Farran, fight their way east from Rennes toward Orleans, through German-occupied forest, forcing the Germans to retreat and aiding the French Resistance in its struggle for liberation. Code-named Operation Wallace, this push east was just another nail in the coffin of German supremacy in France.
- Aug 20 1950 – Korea: United Nations repel an offensive by North Korean divisions attempting to cross the Naktong River and assault the city of Taegu.
- Aug 20 1954 – Vietnam: President Eisenhower approves a National Security Council paper titled "Review of U.S. Policy in the Far East." This paper supported Secretary of State Dulles' view that the United States should support Diem, while encouraging him to broaden his government and establish more democratic institutions. Ultimately, however, Diem would refuse to make any meaningful concessions or institute any significant new reforms and U.S. support was withdrawn.
- Aug 20 1968 – Cold War: Approximately 200,000 Warsaw Pact troops and 5,000 tanks invade Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring"—a brief period of liberalization in the communist country. Czechoslovakians protested the invasion with public demonstrations and other non-violent tactics, but they were no match for the Soviet tanks.
- Aug 20 1974 – Vietnam: In the wake of Nixon's resignation, Congress reduces military aid to South Vietnam from \$1 billion to \$700 million. This was one of several actions that signaled the North Vietnamese that the United States was backing away from its commitment to South Vietnam.
- Aug 20 1982 – Lebanon: During the Lebanese Civil War, a multinational force including 800 U.S. Marines lands in Beirut to oversee the Palestinian withdrawal from Lebanon. It was the beginning of a problem-plagued mission that would stretch into 17 months and leave 262 U.S. servicemen dead.
- Aug 21 1778 – American Revolution: Siege of Pondicherry, India – In the first military action on the Indian subcontinent following the declaration of war between Great Britain and France in the American War of Independence, British forces begin besieging the French outpost at Pondicherry which capitulated after ten weeks of siege.
- Aug 21 1863 – Civil War: The vicious guerilla war in Missouri spills over into Kansas and precipitates one of the most appalling acts of violence during the war when 150 men in the abolitionist town of Lawrence are murdered in a raid by Southern partisans.
- Aug 21 1914 – WWI: The second and third of what will be four "Battles of the Frontiers" fought between German and Allied forces on the Western Front during a four-day period in August 1914 begin near Ardennes and Charleroi in northern France.
- Aug 21 1918 – WWI: The Second Battle of the Somme begins.
- Aug 21 1942 – WW2: Guadalcanal campaign – U.S. Marines turn back the first major Japanese ground attack on Guadalcanal in the Battle of Tenaru.

- Aug 21 1944 – WW2: Representatives from the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China meet in the Dumbarton Oaks estate at Georgetown, Washington, D.C., to formulate the formal principles of an organization that will provide collective security on a worldwide basis—an organization that will become the United Nations.
- Aug 21 1963 – Vietnam: South Vietnamese Special Forces loyal to President Diem’s brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, attack Buddhists pagodas, damaging many and arresting 1,400 Buddhists. Diem’s government represented a minority of Vietnamese who were mostly businessmen, land owners, and Roman Catholics. A large part of the rest of the South Vietnam’s population, overwhelmingly Buddhist, deeply resented Diem’s rule because of what they perceived as severe discrimination against non-Catholics.
- Aug 21 1965 – Vietnam: It is revealed by MACV headquarters (Headquarters Military Assistance Command Vietnam) in Saigon that U.S. pilots have received approval to destroy any Soviet-made missiles they see while raiding North Vietnam. This was a major change from previous orders that restricted them to bombing only previously approved targets.
- Aug 21 1971 – Vietnam: Antiwar protestors associated with the Catholic Left raid draft offices in Buffalo, New York, and Camden, New Jersey, to confiscate and destroy draft records. The FBI and local police arrested 25 protestors.
- Aug 21 1991 – Cold War: Just three days after it began, the coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev collapses. Despite his success in avoiding removal from office, Gorbachev’s days in power were numbered. The Soviet Union would soon cease to exist as a nation and as a Cold War threat to the United States.
- Aug 22 1776 – American Revolution: General William Howe’s nearly 24,000 man army arrive at Long Island, between Gravesend and New Utrecht, hoping to capture New York City and gain control of the Hudson River, a victory that would divide the rebellious colonies in half.
- Aug 22 1777 – American Revolution: British forces abandon the Siege of Fort Mifflin after hearing rumors of Continental Army reinforcements.
- Aug 22 1914 – WWI: As French and German forces face off on the Western Front during the opening month of the First World War, the isolated encounters of the previous day move into full-scale battle in the forests of the Ardennes and at Charleroi, near the junction of the Sambre and Meuse Rivers. Over the course of the day some 27,000 French soldiers died at Ardennes and Charleroi.
- Aug 22 1944 – WW2: Holocaust of Kedros - Wehrmacht infantry carried out an assault operation against the civilian residents of nine villages located in the Amari Valley on the Greek island of Crete. Casualties and losses: 164 Civilians.
- Aug 22 1944 – WW2: Soviet forces break through to Jassy, in northeastern Romania, convincing Romania’s king to sign an armistice with the Allies and concede control of his country to the USSR.
- Aug 22 1945 – Vietnam: Conflict in Vietnam begins when a group of Free French parachute into southern Indochina, in response to a successful coup by communist guerilla Ho Chi Minh.
- Aug 22 1962 – Vietnam: Kennedy administration officials quoted in The New York Times estimate that there are 20,000 guerrilla troops in South Vietnam. Despite hundreds of engagements during the preceding two months and encouraging victories for South Vietnamese forces, the Viet Cong had grown in numbers, and U.S. officials felt that the war had reached a point of stalemate.
- Aug 22 1963 – Vietnam: Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General John P. McConnell, states before a Senate Subcommittee that adopting a graduated bombing policy in North Vietnam was a mistake. Three days later, Secretary of Defense McNamara admitted that the bombing of North Vietnam had not materially affected Hanoi’s “war making capability.”
- Aug 22 1968 – Vietnam: For the first time in two months, Viet Cong forces launch a rocket attack on Saigon, killing 18 and wounding 59. Administration officials denounced the attack as a direct repudiation of President Johnson’s speech of August 19, in which he appealed to the North Vietnamese to respond favorably to his limitation of the air campaign north of the DMZ.

- Aug 23 1775 – American Revolution: King George III delivers his Proclamation of Rebellion to the Court of St. James's stating that the American colonies have proceeded to a state of open and avowed rebellion.
- Aug 23 1784 – American Revolution: Four counties in western North Carolina declare their independence as the state of Franklin. Franklin survived as an independent nation for four years with its own constitution, Indian treaties and legislated system of barter in lieu of currency, though after only two years, North Carolina set up its own parallel government in the region. When Cherokee, Chickamauga and Chickasaw began to attack settlements within Franklin's borders in 1788, it quickly rejoined North Carolina to gain its militia's protection from attack.
- Aug 23 1861 – Civil War: Allan Pinkerton, head of the new secret service agency of the Federal government, places Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow under house arrest in Washington, D.C.
- Aug 23 1864 – Civil War: The Union Navy captures Fort Morgan, Alabama, thus breaking Confederate dominance of all ports on the Gulf of Mexico.
- Aug 23 1914 – WW1: Battle of Mons - In their first confrontation on European soil since the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, four divisions of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), commanded by Sir John French, struggle with the German 1st Army over the 60-foot-wide Mons Canal in Belgium, near the French frontier. The 9-hour battle was the last of the four "Battles of the Frontiers". Casualties and losses: UK 1638 – GE 5,000+.
- Aug 23 1939 – WW2: Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact - Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a 10-year, mutual non-aggression treaty, which also included a secret protocol dividing Northern and Eastern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence.
- Aug 23 1944 – WW2: King Michael dismissed the pro-Axis government of General Ion Antonescu, putting Romania on the side of the Allies for the remainder of the war.
- Aug 23 1950 – Korea: Up to 77,000 members of the U.S. Army Organized Reserve Corps are called involuntarily to active duty to fight.
- Aug 23 1961 – Vietnam: The American cargo ship Baton Rouge Victory strikes a mine laid by the Viet Cong in the Long Tao River, 22 miles south of Saigon. The half-submerged ship blocked the route from the South Vietnamese capital to the sea. Seven crewmen were killed.
- Aug 23 1961 – Vietnam: Communist forces launch rocket and mortar attacks on numerous cities, provincial capitals, and military installations. The heaviest shelling was on the U.S. airfield at Da Nang, the cities of Hue and Quang Tri. North Vietnamese forces numbering between 1200 and 1500 troops attacked the U.S. Special Forces camp at Duc Lap, 130 miles northeast of Saigon near the Cambodian border. The camp fell but was retaken by an allied relief column led by U.S. Special Forces on August 25. A reported 643 North Vietnamese troops were killed in the battle.
- Aug 23 1990 – Gulf War: Saddam Hussein appears on Iraqi state television with a number of Western "guests" (actually hostages) to try to prevent the Gulf War.
- Aug 23 1994 – WWI: Eugene Bullard, the only black pilot in World War I, is posthumously commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.



Bullard, as a French army corporal, His awards, and next to his aircraft

- Aug 23 1996 – OEF/OIF: Osama bin Laden issues message entitled 'A declaration of war against the Americans occupying the land of the two holy places.'

- Aug 24 1814 – War of 1812: Battle of Bladensburg – President Madison, who had been present at the battle, at one point actually took command of one of the few remaining American batteries, thus becoming the first and only president to exercise in actual battle his authority as commander in chief. Casualties and losses: US 150 to 197 – UK 249.
- Aug 24 1814 – War of 1812: Burning of Washington D.C. – After defeating the American forces, British troops march unopposed into the city and began setting the city aflame in revenge for the burning of Canadian government buildings by U.S. troops earlier in the war. The White House is set ablaze, though not burned to the ground; as well as several other buildings. President Madison served the rest of his term residing at the city's Octagon House.
- Aug 24 1816 - Indian Wars: The Treaty of St. Louis, composite name for a series of treaties (14) signed between the U.S. and various Native American tribes from 1804 through 1824, is signed in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Aug 24 1942 – WW2: The Battle of the Eastern Solomons – Japanese aircraft carrier Ryujo is sunk and US carrier USS Enterprise heavily damaged.
- Aug 24 1944 – WW2: Allied troops begin the attack on Paris.
- Aug 24 1944 – WW2: USS Harder (SS-257) sunk by Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No. 22 off west coast of Luzon, Philippines. 79 killed.
- Aug 24 1954 – Cold War: Congress passes the Communist Control Act in response to the growing anticommunist hysteria in the United States. Though full of ominous language, many found the purpose of the act unclear.
- Aug 24 1963 – Vietnam: Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge receives a State Department cable stating that the United States can no longer tolerate Ngo Dinh Nhu's influence in President Ngo Dinh Diem's regime. This message was in response to the raids on the Buddhist pagodas; it also directed Lodge to tell the South Vietnamese generals that Washington was prepared to discontinue economic and military aid to Diem.
- Aug 24 1964 – Vietnam: Company A of the Third Battalion, 196th Light Infantry Brigade refuses the order of its commander, Lieutenant Eugene Schurtz, Jr., to continue an attack that had been launched to reach a downed helicopter shot down in the Que Son valley, 30 miles south of Da Nang. The unit had been in fierce combat for five days against entrenched North Vietnamese forces and had taken heavy casualties
- Aug 24 1970 – Vietnam: A radical protest group calling themselves the New Year's Gang blew up in the Army Mathematics Research Center at the University of Wisconsin Army Mathematics Research Center in Madison. A graduate student who was working late was killed in the blast. The center, which reportedly was involved in war research, had been a focus for protest in the past, but previously protests had all been nonviolent.
- Aug 25 1864 – Civil War: The Second Battle of Ream's Station - Union forces finish cutting a vital Confederate supply line into Petersburg, Virginia by attacking the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad at Reams Station. Casualties and losses: US 2,747 – CSA 814
- Aug 25 1914 – WWI: In the opening month of the war over the course of five days German troops, stationed in the Belgian village of Louvain, burn and loot much of the town executing hundreds of civilians.
- Aug 25 1921 – WWI: The U.S., which never ratified the Versailles Treaty ending World War I, finally signs a peace treaty with Germany.
- Aug 25 1942 – WW2: Battle of Milne Bay - Japanese forces for 13 days unsuccessfully attacked the Australian base at Milne Bay on the eastern tip of New Guinea. Papua New Guinea. Casualties and losses: US 13 – AS 373 – JP 936.
- Aug 25 1942 – WW2: Battle of the Eastern Solomons – On the second day of the battle a Japanese naval transport convoy headed towards Guadalcanal is turned back by an Allied air attack. Japanese losses were one destroyer and one transport sunk, and one light cruiser heavily damaged.

- Aug 25 1944 – WW2: Liberation of Paris - French General Jacques Leclerc enters the free French capital triumphantly. Pockets of German intransigence remained, but Paris was free from German control. More than 500 Resistance fighters died in the struggle for Paris, as well as 127 civilians. Once the city was free from German rule, French collaborators were often killed upon capture, without trial.
- Aug 25 1945 – Cold War: Ten days after World War II ends with Japan announcing its surrender, armed supporters of the Communist Party of China kill Baptist missionary John Birch, regarded by some of the American right as the first victim of the Cold War. In the 1950s, Robert Welch would create a right-wing, anticommunist organization called the John Birch Society.



- Aug 25 1967 – Vietnam: Defense Secretary McNamara concedes that the U.S. bombing campaign has had little effect on the North’s “war-making capability.” At the same time, McNamara refuses a request from military commanders to bomb all MIG bases in North Vietnam. In Hanoi, North Vietnam’s Administrative Committee orders all workers in light industry and all craftsmen and their families to leave the city; only persons vital to the city’s defense and production were to remain.
- Aug 25 1971 – Vietnam: U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade, among the first U.S. ground units sent to Vietnam, ceases combat operations and prepares to redeploy to the United States as part of Nixon’s troop withdrawal plan.
- Aug 25 1985 – Cold War: Samantha Smith, the 13-year-old “ambassador” to the Soviet Union, dies in a plane crash. Smith was best known for writing to Soviet leader Yuri Andropov in 1982 regarding her concerns about a nuclear war and visiting the Soviet Union as Andropov’s guest in 1983. Andropov assured Smith that he did not want a nuclear war with the United States or any other country.



1985 USSR Stamp

- Aug 26 1776 – American Revolution: Falsely confident that the British would not attack New York’s Manhattan Island, General George Washington pours additional reinforcements into the lines around Brooklyn Heights. He also ordered the dispersal of certain documents among the Hessian soldiers fighting for the British inducing them to desert the British army.
- Aug 26 1914 – WW1: Battle of Tannenberg - The German 8th Army strikes with lethal force against the advancing Russian 2nd Army in East Prussia during the opening weeks of the War. After three days of battering by German artillery, Samsonov’s troops began their retreat; more German forces cut off their path and a massive slaughter ensued. In total, over 50,000 Russian soldiers were killed and some 92,000 taken as prisoners.

- Aug 26 1942 – WW2: First black Marine (Howard Perry) entered first recruit training camp (Montford Point, NC) for black Marines



- Aug 26 1944 – WW2: French General Charles de Gaulle enters Paris, which had formally been liberated the day before. As he entered the Place de l’Hotel, French collaborationists took a few sniper shots at him. For de Gaulle, the liberation of Paris was the end of a long history of fighting Germans. He sustained multiple injuries fighting at Verdun in World War I. He escaped German POW camps five times, only to be recaptured each time. (At 6 feet, 4 inches tall, it was hard for de Gaulle to be inconspicuous.)
- Aug 26 1949 – USS Cochino (SS–345) foundered after a battery explosion during a severe storm off northern Norway killing one sailor.
- Aug 26 1957 – Cold War: The Soviet Union announces that it has successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of being fired “into any part of the world.” The announcement caused great concern in the United States, and started a national debate over the “missile gap” between America and Russia.
- Aug 26 1967 – Vietnam: Badly injured after ejecting when his North American F-100F is shot down over North Vietnam, Major George E. Day is captured and severely tortured. He later managed to escape and eventually made it to the DMZ. After several attempts to signal U.S. aircraft, he was ambushed and recaptured, and was later moved to prison in Hanoi, where he continued to strongly resist to his captors. Finally released in 1973, Major Day was awarded the Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry while a POW.
- Aug 27 1776 – American Revolution: The Battle of Long Island - In the largest battle of the War British forces under General William Howe defeat Americans under General George Washington at what is now Brooklyn, New York. The city would remain in British hands until the end of the war. Casualties and losses: US 2,000 - GB 388.
- Aug 27 1776 – Civil War: The attack on Cape Hatteras - Union ships sail into North Carolina’s Hatteras Inlet, beginning a two-day operation that secures the area for the Federals and denies the Confederates an important outlet to the Atlantic.
- Aug 27 1916 – WWI: Romania declares war on Austria-Hungary, formally entering World War I. Romanian troops cross the border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire into the much-contested province of Transylvania.
- Aug 27 1918 - Battle of Ambos Nogales: U.S. Army forces skirmish against Mexican Carrancistas and their German advisors in the only battle of World War I fought on American soil. Casualties and losses: US 32 - MEX ~430.
- Aug 27 1928 - The Kellogg-Briand Pact: An international agreement outlawing war is initially signed by 15 nations which included Germany, France and the United States. Ultimately sixty-one nations will sign it. It is named after its authors, United States Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and French foreign minister Aristide Briand.
- Aug 27 1941 – WWII: Prince Fumimaro Konoye, prime minister of Japan, announces that he would like to enter into direct negotiations with President Roosevelt in order to prevent the Japanese conflict with China from expanding into world war.
- Aug 27 1943 – WW2: Japanese forces evacuate New Georgia Island in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

- Aug 27 1945 – WW2: B-29 Superfortress bombers begin to drop supplies into Allied POW camps in China.
- Aug 27 1945 – WW2: US troops land in Japan after Japanese surrender.
- Aug 27 1952 – Cold War: As the presidential election of 1952 begins to heat up, so do accusations and counteraccusations concerning communism in America. The “Red Scare”—the widespread belief that international communism was operating in the United States—came to dominate much of the debate between Democrats and Republicans in 1952.
- Aug 27 1972 – Vietnam: In the heaviest bombing in four years, U.S. aircraft flatten North Vietnamese barracks near Hanoi and Haiphong as part of ongoing Operation Linebacker I, part of President Nixon’s response to the NVA Easter Offensive. Planes also hit bridges on the northeast railroad line to China.
- Aug 28 1861 – Civil War: Battle of Hatteras Inlet Batteries - The Union Army successfully extended its blockage strategy by capturing two Confederate forts on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Casualties and losses: US 3 – CSA 715.
- Aug 28 1862 – Civil War: 3 day Second Battle of Bull Run starts. Also known as the Battle of Second Manassas. Casualties and losses: US ~10,000 – CSA 8,300.
- Aug 28 1914 – WWI: Battle of Heligoland Bight - War spreads from land to sea when the first major naval battle of the conflict breaks out between British and German ships in the North Sea, near the northern coast of Germany. Casualties and losses: GB 35 – Ger 1,200 + 3 Cruisers Sunk + 3 damaged.
- Aug 28 1941 – WWII: Ukraine - SS General Franz Jaeckeln marched more than 23,000 Hungarian Jews to bomb craters at Kamenets Podolsk, ordered them to undress, and riddled them with machine-gun fire. Those who didn’t die from the spray of bullets were buried alive under the weight of corpses that piled atop them. All told, more than 600,000 Jews had been murdered in Ukraine by war’s end.
- Aug 28 1966 – Vietnam: It is reported in three Soviet newspapers that North Vietnamese pilots are undergoing training in a secret Soviet air base to fly supersonic interceptors against U.S. aircraft. The Soviets agreed to supply the necessary war materials, to include air defense weapons for the North and offensive weapons to be employed in the South. At one point in the war, the Soviets would supply 80 percent of all supplies reaching North Vietnam.
- Aug 28 1968 – Cold War: At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, tens of thousands of protesters against the Vietnam War battle police in the streets while the Democratic Party tears itself to shreds concerning a platform statement on Vietnam. In one day and night, the Cold War consensus that had dominated American thinking since the late 1940s was shattered.
- Aug 28 1972 – Vietnam: The U.S. Air Force gets its first ace (a designation traditionally awarded for five enemy aircraft confirmed shot down) since the Korean War. Captain Richard S. Ritchie, flying with his “backseater” (radar intercept officer), Captain Charles B. DeBellevue, in an F-4 out of Udorn Air Base in Thailand, shoots down his fifth MiG near Hanoi.
- Aug 28 1990 – Iraq declares Kuwait to be its newest province
- Aug 29 1778 – American Revolution: British and American forces battle indecisively at the Battle of Rhode Island. Casualties and losses: US 201 - GB 280.
- Aug 29 1779 – American Revolution: Battle of Chemung - Near New York’s southwestern border with Pennsylvania, Continental forces led by Major General John Sullivan and Brigadier General James Clinton defeat a combined force of Loyalists and Indians commanded by Captain Walter Butler and Chief Joseph Brant.
- Aug 29 1861 – Civil War: US Navy squadron captures forts at Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina. Casualties and losses: US 3 - CSA 715.
- Aug 29 1862 – Civil War: Second Battle of Bull Run - Confederate General Robert E. Lee deals a stinging defeat to Union General John Pope at Bull Run, Virginia—a battle that arose out of the failure of Union General George McClellan’s Peninsular campaign earlier in the summer. The

Confederates mauled the Union troops, and by August 30 Pope had to retreat. His army lost over 16,000 men to the Confederates' 9,000.

- Aug 29 1915 – US Navy salvage divers raise F-4 (SS-23), the first U.S. submarine sunk in an accident.



Photographed in 1913-15, in Honolulu drydock after salvage, and implosion hole inspection

- Aug 29 1916 – Congress creates US Naval Reserve.
- Aug 29 1942 – WW2: The American Red Cross announces that Japan has refused to allow safe conduct for the passage of ships with supplies for American POWs. As the war came to a close, the Red Cross followed on the heels of liberating military forces to supply relief and aid to those suffering from the ravages of battle. Approximately 20,000 professional Red Cross workers served during the war, along with countless other volunteers.
- Aug 29 1944 – WW2: 15,000 American troops liberating Paris march down Avenue des Champs Elysees.
- Aug 29 1945 – WW2: President Harry Truman issues Executive Order No. 9639, giving the Secretary of the Navy the power to seize control of and operate a list of petroleum refineries and transportation companies in order to counteract strikes by oil workers. The list of plants seized by the Navy included those owned by industry giants: the Gulf, Shell, Standard and Union oil companies.
- Aug 29 1949 – Cold War: Soviet Atomic Bomb Project – The Soviet Union tests its first atomic bomb, known as First Lightning or Joe 1, at Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. The atomic explosion, at 22 kilotons was roughly equal to “Trinity,” the first U.S. atomic explosion. The test surprised the Western powers. American intelligence had estimated that the Soviets would not produce an atomic weapon until 1953, while the British did not expect it until 1954.



The first Soviet atomic bomb, "RDS-1", was an implosion type like the U.S. "Fat Man" bomb, even in appearance; the front "eyes" are radar fuses.

- Aug 29 1950 – Cold War: Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Edward W. Barrett declares that most of the “captive populations” in Soviet satellite nations oppose the Russians. Barrett called for an accelerated program of U.S. propaganda designed to capitalize on this weakness in the communist bloc.

- Aug 29 1972 – Vietnam: President Nixon sets December 1 as the target date for reducing U.S. troops strength in Vietnam by 12,000, to 27,000, an all-time low since the American troop buildup began in 1965.
- Aug 29 1990 – Iraq: Saddam Hussein declares America can't beat Iraq.
- Aug 29 2007 – USAF nuclear weapons incident: Six cruise missiles armed with nuclear warheads are flown without proper authorization from Minot Air Force Base to Barksdale Air Force Base.
- Aug 30 1776 – American Revolution: General George Washington gives the New York Convention three reasons for the American retreat from Long Island after a humiliating defeat at the Battle of Brooklyn Heights, the need to reunite his forces, the extreme fatigue of his soldiers and the lack of proper shelter from the weather. That same day, he rejects British General William Howe's second letter of reconciliation. In the first letter, Howe had attempted to reconcile with the Patriots before blood was spilled, but had been rejected by Washington because he had failed to use Washington's title of "general" when addressing the letter.
- Aug 30 1813 – Creek War: Fort Mims Massacre - Creek "Red Sticks" kill over 500 settlers (including over 250 armed militia) in Fort Mims, north of Mobile, Alabama.
- Aug 30 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Richmond - Confederates under Edmund Kirby Smith rout Union forces under General Horatio Wright in one of the most lopsided engagements of the Civil War. Casualties and losses: US 5343 - CSA 451.
- Aug 30 1918 – WWI: The Belfort Ruse - In Belfort, France, a small town near the German border, Colonel Arthur L. Conger of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) plants a copy of a false operational order in a wastebasket; as intended, it is later found and removed by a German agent. It was designed to trick the German High Command into believing that the thrust of the Allied offensive, which would begin less than two weeks later would instead be launched near Belfort. The extent to which the ruse proved successful is debatable.
- Aug 30 1945 – WWII: Gen. Douglas MacArthur lands at Atsugi Airport in Japan and proceeded to drive himself to Yokohama to oversee the formal surrender ceremony and to organize the postwar Japanese government. Along the way tens of thousands of Japanese soldiers lined the roads, their bayonets fixed on him. One last act of defiance—but all for naught. MacArthur would be the man who would reform Japanese society, putting it on the road to economic success.
- Aug 30 1963 – Cold War: Hotline - Two months after signing an agreement to establish a 24-hour-a-day "hot line" between Moscow and Washington, the system goes into effect. The hot line was supposed to help speed communication between the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union and help prevent the possibility of an accidental war. The agreement came just months after the October 1962 Cuban missile crisis, in which the United States and Soviet Union came to the brink of nuclear conflict.
- Aug 30 1966 – Vietnam: Hanoi Radio announces that Deputy Premier Le Thanh Nghi has signed an agreement with Peking whereby the People's Republic of China will provide additional economic and technical aid to North Vietnam. China had already been providing support to the Communists in Vietnam since the war against the French. When the U.S. became decisively involved after the Gulf of Tonkin incident, China increased the support to both North Vietnam and the insurgents in South Vietnam
- Aug 31 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Jonesboro - General William T. Sherman launches the attack that finally secures Atlanta, Georgia, for the Union, and seals the fate of Confederate General John Bell Hood's army, which is forced to evacuate the area. The Battle was the culmination of a four-month campaign by Sherman to capture Atlanta. The fall of Atlanta was instrumental in securing the reelection of Abraham Lincoln in the fall.
- Aug 31 1935: In an effort to stay out of the growing European conflict that led to WWII, the United States passed the first of its Neutrality Acts spurred by the growth in isolationism and non-interventionism in the US following its costly involvement in World War I.

- Aug 31 1939 – WWII: Germany Prepares for Invasion - At noon, despite threats of British and French intervention, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler signs an order to attack Poland, and German forces move to the frontier. That evening, Nazi S.S. troops wearing Polish uniforms staged a phony invasion of Germany, damaging several minor installations on the German side of the border. They also left behind a handful of dead German prisoners in Polish uniforms to serve as further evidence of the alleged Polish attack, which Nazi propagandists publicized as an unforgivable act of aggression.
- Aug 31 1941 – WW2: 23 U-boats sunk (80,000 ton) this month
- Aug 31 1942 – WW2: U boats sunk 108 ships (544,000 ton) this month.
- Aug 31 1944 – WW2: The British 8th Army breaks through the Germans’ “Gothic Line”. Built earlier in the year this was a defensive line drawn across northern Italy consisting of fortified towns, stretching from Pisa in the west to Pesaro in the east.
- Aug 31 1951– Cold War: Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas issues a statement calling for the recognition of the communist People’s Republic of China. His comments touched off an angry partisan debate in the U.S. Senate. Recognition by America, he reasoned, would help split China from its dependence on the Soviet Union and perhaps stem the tide of communist expansion in the Far East.
- Aug 31 1951 – Korea: The 1st Marine Division begins its attack on Bloody Ridge. The 4 day battle results in 2,700 Marine casualties.
- Aug 31 1967 – Vietnam: Senate Preparedness Investigating Committee issues a call to step up bombing against the North, declaring that McNamara had “shackled” the air war against Hanoi, and calling for “closure, neutralization, or isolation of Haiphong.” President Johnson, attempting to placate Congressional “hawks” and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expanded the approved list of targets in the north.
- Aug 31 1972 – Vietnam: U.S. weekly casualty figures of five dead and three wounded are the lowest recorded since record keeping began in January 1965. These numbers reflected the fact that there were less than 40,000 American troops left in South Vietnam by this time and very few of these were involved in actual combat.

[Source: Various Aug 2016 ++]