



Military History Anniversaries 16 thru 30 April

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

- Apr 16 1863 - Civil War: Union Admiral David Dixon Porter leads 12 ships past the heavy barrage of Confederate artillery at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He lost only one ship, and the operation speeded General Ulysses S. Grant's movement against Vicksburg.
- Apr 16 1917 - WWI: Vladimir Lenin, leader of the revolutionary Bolshevik Party, returns to Petrograd after a decade of exile to take the reins of the Revolution. One month before, Czar Nicholas II had been forced from power when Russian army troops joined a workers' revolt in Petrograd, the Russian capital.
- Apr 16 1944 - WW2: Allied forces start bombing Belgrade, killing about 1,100 people. This bombing fell on the Orthodox Christian Easter.
- Apr 16 1945 - WW2: American troops enter Nuremberg Germany
- Apr 16 1945 - The U.S Army liberates Nazi Sonderlager (high security) prisoner-of-war camp Oflag IV-C (better known as Colditz).
- Apr 16 1945 - WW2: German refugee ship MV Goya carrying wounded and fleeing refugees from the Soviet invasion is sunk by a Soviet submarine. One of the largest maritime losses of life in history, with just 183 survivors among 7,000 passengers and crew.
- Apr 16 1945 - WW2: The Red Army begins the final assault on German forces around Berlin, with nearly one million troops fighting in the Battle of the Seelow Heights. Estimated casualties and losses: Soviets 20 to 30,000 – Ger. 20,000
- Apr 16 1947 - Cold War: Bernard Baruch, an American financier and presidential advisor, delivered a speech saying we are today in the midst of a cold war using the term for the first to describe the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union. Although no official dates are set it is generally acknowledged it did not end until 1991.
- Apr 16 1948 – Cold War: Soviet troops stop U.S. and British military trains traveling through the Russian zone of occupation in Germany and demand that they be allowed to search the trains. British and U.S. officials refused the Soviet demand, and the problems associated with the Soviet, British, and U.S. occupation of Germany grew steadily more serious in the following months.
- Apr 16 1953 - Korean War: Battle of Pork Chop Hill (Hill 255) begins.

- Apr 16 1968 - Vietnam: At a series of meetings in Honolulu, President Johnson discusses recent Allied and enemy troop deployments with U.S. military leaders. He also conferred with South Korean President Park Chung Hee to reaffirm U.S. military commitments to Seoul and assure Park that his country's interests would not be compromised by any Vietnamese peace agreement.
- Apr 16 1972 - Vietnam: In an effort to help blunt the ongoing North Vietnamese Nguyen Hue Offensive, the United States resumes bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong after a four-year lull. White House spokesmen announced that the United States would bomb military targets anywhere in Vietnam in order to help the South Vietnamese defend against the communist onslaught.
- Apr 17 1783 – Revolutionary War: About 2 a.m. British Captain James Colbert, along with a group of 82 British partisans, launches a surprise attack on the Arkansas post of Fort Carlos (modern-day Gillett, in Desha County), located on the banks of the Arkansas River. The “Colbert Raid” was the only Revolutionary War action to take place in Arkansas
- Apr 17 1863 - Civil War: Grierson's 16 day Raid begins – 1700 horse troopers under Union Army Colonel Benjamin Grierson successfully attack central Mississippi. Casualties and losses: US 24 – CSA 240 est.
- Apr 17 1864 - Civil War: Confederate forces attack Plymouth, North Carolina, in an attempt to recapture ports lost to the Union two years before. The four-day battle ended with the fall of Plymouth, but the Yankees kept the city bottled up with a flotilla on nearby Albemarle Sound. Casualties and losses: US 2,000 - CSA 800.
- Apr 17 1917 - WWI: As the major Allied offensive masterminded by Robert Nivelle was failing miserably on the Western Front, British forces in Palestine make their second attempt to capture the city of Gaza from the Ottoman army.
- Apr 17 1941 - WW2: The Yugoslav army, encircled in Bosnia, surrenders to Germany and signs a formal capitulation in Belgrade. By the time the Yugoslav government surrendered, 6,000 Yugoslav officers and 335,000 men had been taken prisoner, overwhelmed by the sheer force of Axis numbers.
- Apr 17 1942 - WW2: French General Henri Giraud, who was captured in 1940, escapes from a castle prison at Konigstein by lowering himself down the castle wall and jumping on board a moving train, which takes him to the French border. Hitler, outraged, ordered Giraud's assassination upon being caught, but the French general was able to make it to North Africa via a British submarine.
- Apr 17 1945 - WW2: U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Boris T. Pash commandeers over half a ton of uranium at Strassfurt, Germany, in an effort to prevent the Russians from developing an A-bomb.
- Apr 17 1961 - Bay of Pigs Invasion: A group of CIA financed and trained Cuban refugees land at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba with the aim of ousting Fidel Castro. Casualties and losses: Cuba 4,176 - Cuban Exiles/US 1,320. Video at <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-bay-of-pigs-invasion-begins>.
- Apr 17 1972 - Vietnam: The first major antiwar protest of 1972 is held. The demonstration, held at the University of Maryland, was organized to protest the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Hundreds of students were arrested and 800 National Guardsmen were ordered onto the campus. Significant protests continued across the country in reaction to the increased bombing of North Vietnam, which had been initiated in response to the new communist offensive in South Vietnam.
- Apr 17 1975 - Vietnam: The Khmer Rouge troops capture Phnom Penh and government forces surrender. The war between government troops and the communist insurgents had been raging since March 1970, when Lt. Gen. Lon Nol had ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk in a bloodless coup and proclaimed the establishment of the Khmer Republic (Cambodia).

- Apr 18 1775 - American Revolution: British troops march out of Boston on a mission to confiscate the American arsenal at Concord and to capture Patriot leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock, known to be hiding at Lexington. As the British departed, Boston Patriots Paul Revere and William Dawes set out on horseback from the city to warn Adams and Hancock and rouse the Minutemen. After speaking with Adams and Hancock they were joined by Samuel Prescott who carried the news to the city of Concord.



Paul Revere, 1903



William Dawes



Samuel Prescott

- Apr 18 1848 - Mexican*American War: Battle of Cerro Gordo - Winfield Scott's U.S. troops out-flanked and drove Santa Anna's larger Mexican army from a strong defensive position in the Battle of Cerro Gordo. American victory opened the way for invasion of Mexico.
- Apr 18 1861 - Civil War: First blood of the War is shed - Pro-Confederate volunteers (Residents of Baltimore, Maryland) attack a Union regiment while the group makes its way to Washington, D.C. Cobblestones rained down on the soldiers as they prepared to transfer from the President Street Station to Camden Station. Shots were fired, and when the smoke cleared four Massachusetts soldiers lay dead along with 12 Baltimoreans, while 36 troops and an undetermined number of civilians were wounded.
- Apr 18 1864 - Civil War: At Poison Spring, Arkansas, Confederate soldiers under the command of General Samuel Maxey capture a Union forage train and slaughter black troops escorting the expedition. Casualties and Losses: US -300 Yankee troops were killed, wounded, or captured - CSA 13 killed and 81 wounded.
- Apr 18 1915 - WWI: A member of the German Bahnschutzwache, or Railway Protection Guard, shoots down the well-known French war hero Roland Garros in his flight over German positions in Flanders, France, on a bombing raid.
- Apr 18 1942 - WW2: Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle, 16 American B-25 bombers launched from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet 650 miles east of Japan, attack the Japanese mainland bombing Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Nagoya. Believing the air raid had been launched from Midway Island, approval was given to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's plans for an attack on Midway
- Apr 18 1943 - WW2: Warsaw Ghetto Uprising - In Poland, Nazi forces attempting to clear out the city's Jewish ghetto are met by gunfire from Jewish resistance fighters,
- Apr 18 1943 - WW2: Operation Vengeance - The mastermind of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto) is shot down by American P-38 fighters while traveling in a bomber.
- Apr 18 1944 - WW2: USS Gudgeon (SS-211) missing. Most likely sunk by Japanese naval aircraft (901st Kokutai) southwest of Iwo Jima. 79 killed.

- Apr 18 1945 - WW2: Over 1,000 bombers attack the small island of Heligoland, Germany.
- Apr 18 1945 - WW2: Journalist Ernie Pyle, America's most popular war correspondent, is killed by Japanese machine-gun fire on the island of Ie Shima in the Pacific. Pyle had been at the London Blitz of 1941 and saw action in North Africa, Italy, France, and the Pacific.
- Apr 18 1949 - The keel for the aircraft carrier USS United States is laid down at Newport News Drydock and Shipbuilding. However, construction is canceled five days later, resulting in the Revolt of the Admirals.
- Apr 18 1949 – Cold War: At the opening night of the spring edition of the famous Moscow Circus, clowns and magicians fire salvos of jokes aimed at the United States. Although a relatively minor aspect of the total Cold War, the night was evidence that even humor played a role in the battle between the United States and the Soviet Union.
- Apr 18 1961 - Cold War: President John F. Kennedy heats up Cold War rhetoric in a letter responding to Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's claim that the U.S. was engaging in armed aggression against the communist regime in Cuba. Kennedy denied the allegations, told Khrushchev he was under a serious misapprehension and stated that the U.S. intends no military intervention in Cuba. However, Kennedy insisted that he would support Cubans who wish to see a democratic system in an independent Cuba and that the U.S. would take no action to stifle the spirit of liberty.
- Apr 18 1969 - Vietnam: At a news conference, President Nixon says he feels the prospects for peace have "significantly improved" since he took office. He cited the greater political stability of the Saigon government and the improvement in the South Vietnamese armed forces as proof.
- Apr 18 1983: The U.S. embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, is almost completely destroyed by a car-bomb explosion that kills 63 people, including the suicide bomber and 17 Americans. The terrorist attack was carried out in protest of the U.S. military presence in Lebanon.
- Apr 18 1988 - Iran*Iraq War: The United States launches Operation Praying Mantis against Iranian naval forces in the largest naval battle since World War II.
- Apr 18 1989 – Cold War: Thousands of Chinese students continue to take to the streets in Beijing to protest government policies and issue a call for greater democracy in the communist People's Republic of China (PRC). The protests grew until the Chinese government ruthlessly suppressed them in June during what came to be known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre.
- Apr 18 1995: A massive truck bomb explodes outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The blast collapsed the north face of the nine-story building, instantly killing more than 100 people and trapping dozens more in the rubble. Emergency crews raced to Oklahoma City from across the country, and when the rescue effort finally ended two weeks later the death toll stood at 168 people killed, including 19 young children who were in the building's day-care center at the time of the blast.
- Apr 19 1775 - American Revolution: At about 5 a.m., 700 British troops, on a mission to capture Patriot leaders and seize a Patriot arsenal, march into Lexington to find 77 armed minutemen under Captain John Parker waiting for them on the town's common green. British Major John Pitcairn ordered the outnumbered Patriots to disperse, and after a moment's hesitation the Americans began to drift off the green. Suddenly, the "shot heard around the world" was fired from an undetermined gun, and a cloud of musket smoke soon covered the green. When the brief Battle of Lexington ended, 8 Americans lay dead or dying and 10 others were wounded. Only one British soldier was injured, but the American Revolution had begun.
- Apr 19 1861 - Civil War: Baltimore Riot of 1861 – A pro–Secession mob in Baltimore, Maryland, attacks United States Army troops marching through the city.

- Apr 19 1916 – WWI: U.S. President Wilson address to the U.S. Congress. He said that the U.S. should break diplomatic relations with Germany if they did not stop attacking merchant ships with its submarines.
- Apr 19 1919 – WWI: The Saturday before Easter, tense and complicated negotiations begin at the Paris peace conference over Italy’s claims to territory in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Italians must somehow be mollified, wrote Britain’s foreign secretary, Arthur Balfour, and the only question is how to mollify them at the smallest cost to mankind.
- Apr 19 1942 - WW2: In Poland, the Majdan-Tatarski ghetto is established, situated between the Lublin Ghetto and a Majdanek subcamp.
- Apr 19 1943 - WW2: In Poland, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins, after German troops enter the Warsaw ghetto to round up the remaining Jews. The Jews were able to fend off the German assault for 28 days. Finally, SS General Jurgen Stroop set the entire ghetto block, now reduced to an area 1,000 yards by 300 yards, on fire and blew up the synagogue. By May, 56,065 Jews were dead. It is estimated that the Germans lost 300, with 1,000 wounded.
- Apr 19 1951 - Korean War: General Douglas MacArthur retires from the military in his speech (<http://www.rjgeib.com/thoughts/war/douglas-macarthur-farewell.html>) before the joint session of Congress after his abrupt dismissal as Commander in Chief of the United Nations forces in Korea. His retirement provoked a nation-wide controversy that recalled the fury over the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854.
- Apr 19 1969 - Vietnam: Over North Vietnam, Air Force Maj. Leo K. Thorsness, from the 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron, and his electronic warfare officer, Capt. Harold E. Johnson, destroy two enemy surface-to-air missile sites, and then shoot down a MiG-17 before escorting search-and-rescue helicopters to a downed aircrew. Although his F-105 fighter-bomber was very low on fuel, Major Thorsness attacked four more MiG-17s in an effort to draw the enemy aircraft away from the downed aircrew. He was subsequently shot down over North Vietnam on April 30, 1967 and spent the next six years as a prisoner of war. Awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous action that day, Thorsness did not receive his medal until 1973.
- Apr 19 1971 - Vietnam War: As a prelude to a massive antiwar protest, Vietnam Veterans Against the War begin a five-day demonstration in Washington, D.C. The generally peaceful protest, called Dewey Canyon III in honor of the operation of the same name conducted in Laos, ended on April 23 with about 1,000 veterans throwing their combat ribbons, helmets, and uniforms on the Capitol steps, along with toy weapons. Earlier, they had lobbied with their congressmen, laid wreaths in Arlington National Cemetery, and staged mock “search and destroy” mission
- Apr 19 1989 - A gun turret explodes on the USS Iowa, killing 47 sailors.



USS Iowa's Turret Two explodes

- Apr 20 1775 – Revolutionary War: the Siege of Boston begins, following the battles at Lexington and Concord.

- Apr 20 1861 - Civil War: Colonel Robert E. Lee resigns from the United States army two days after he was offered command of the Union army and three days after his native state, Virginia, seceded from the Union. He then took command the forces of the state of Virginia.
- Apr 20 1898 - Cuba: President William McKinley asks Congress to declare war on Spain. McKinley originally tried to avoid an armed conflict with Spain, but the American media, led by newspaper baron Randolph Hearst, lambasted McKinley as weak and whipped up popular sentiment for a war to give Cubans their independence.
- Apr 20 1945 - WW2: Allied bombers in Italy begin a three-day attack on the bridges over the rivers Adige and Brenta to cut off German lines of retreat on the peninsula. Meanwhile, Adolf Hitler celebrates his 56th birthday as a Gestapo reign of terror results in the hanging of 20 Russian prisoners of war and 20 Jewish children: Of these, at least nine are under the age of 12. All of the victims had been taken from Auschwitz to Neuengamme, the place of execution, for the purpose of medical experimentation.
- Apr 20 1945 - WW2: US troops capture Leipzig, Germany, only to later cede the city to the Soviet Union.
- Apr 20 1945 - WW2: Fuehrerbunker: Adolf Hitler makes his last trip to the surface to award Iron Crosses to boy soldiers of the Hitler Youth.
- Apr 20 1945 - Cold War: Mariel Boatlift - The Castro regime announces that all Cubans wishing to emigrate to the U.S. are free to board boats at the port of Mariel west of Havana, launching the Mariel Boatlift. The first of 125,000 Cuban refugees from Mariel reached Florida the next day.
- Apr 20 1970 - Vietnam: In a televised speech, President Nixon pledges to withdraw 150,000 more U.S. troops over the next year "based entirely on the progress" of the Vietnamization program
- Apr 20 1971 - Vietnam: The Pentagon releases figures confirming that fragging incidents are on the rise. In 1970, 209 such incidents caused the deaths of 34 men; in 1969, 96 such incidents cost 34 men their lives. Fragging was a slang term used to describe U.S. military personnel tossing of fragmentation hand grenades (hence the term "fragging") usually into sleeping areas to murder fellow soldiers. It was usually directed primarily against unit leaders, officers, and noncommissioned officers.
- Apr 20 1978 - Cold War: Soviet aircraft force a Korean Air Lines passenger jet to land in the Soviet Union after the jet veers into Russian airspace. Two people were killed and several others injured when the jet made a rough landing on a frozen lake about 300 miles south of Murmansk.
- Apr 21 1778 – Revolutionary War: Massacre at Hancock’s Bridge - Just three days after British Loyalists and Hessian mercenary forces assault the local New Jersey militia at Quinton’s Bridge, three miles from Salem, New Jersey, the same contingent surprises the colonial militia at Hancock’s Bridge, five miles from Salem. During the battle at least 20 members of the Salem militia lost their lives, some after attempting to surrender.
- Apr 21 1836 – Texas Revolution: The Battle of San Jacinto - Republic of Texas forces under Sam Houston defeat troops under Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna. Casualties and losses: Tex 39 – Mex 838.
- Apr 21 1918 – WWI: Near the Somme River in France, the German army launches its first major offensive on the Western Front in two years. By the end of the first day, German troops had advanced more than four miles and inflicted almost 30,000 British casualties.
- Apr 21 1918 – WWI: German fighter ace Manfred von Richthofen, known as "The Red Baron", is shot down and killed over Vaux sur Somme in France.



Richthofen wearing the Blue Max, Prussia's highest military order

- Apr 21 1942 – WW2: The most famous (and first international) Aggie Muster is held on the Philippine island of Corregidor, by Brigadier General George F. Moore (with 25 fellow Texas A&M graduates who are under his command), while 1.8 million pounds of shells pounded the island over a 5 hour attack.
- Apr 21 1943 – WW2: The second military conspiracy plan to assassinate Hitler in a week fails to come off.
- Apr 21 1967 – Vietnam: The North Vietnamese press agency reports that an exchange of notes took place in February between President Lyndon B. Johnson and Ho Chi Minh. The agency said that Ho rejected a proposal made by Johnson for direct talks between the United States and North Vietnam on ending the war. The North Vietnamese demanded that the United States “stop definitely and unconditionally its bombing raids and all other acts of war against North Vietnam.” The U.S. State Department confirmed the exchange of letters and expressed regret that Hanoi had divulged this information, since the secret letters were intended as a serious diplomatic attempt to end the conflict. Nothing of any consequence came from Johnson’s initiative.
- Apr 21 1972 – Vietnam: In Cambodia, more than 100 civilians are killed and 280 wounded as communist artillery and rockets strike Phnom Penh and outlying areas in the heaviest attack since the beginning of the war in 1970. Following the shelling, a communist force of 500 troops attacked and entered Takh Mau, six miles southeast of Pnom Penh, killing at least 25 civilians.
- Apr 21 1980 – Cold War: President Jimmy Carter informs a group of U.S. athletes that, in response to the December 1979 Soviet incursion into Afghanistan, the United States will boycott the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. It marked the first and only time that the United States has boycotted the Olympics.
- Apr 22 1765 – American Revolution: Stamp Act - Hoping to raise sufficient funds to defend the vast new American territories won from the French in the Seven Years’ War, the British government passes the notorious Stamp Act. The legislation levied a direct tax on all materials printed for commercial and legal use in the colonies, including everything from broadsides and insurance policies to playing cards and dice. Though the Stamp Act employed a strategy that was a common fundraising vehicle in England, it stirred a storm of protest in the colonies.
- Apr 22 1836 – Texas Revolution: A day after the Battle of San Jacinto, forces under Texas General Sam Houston capture Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna.
- Apr 22 1898 – Spanish*American War: The USS Nashville captures a Spanish merchant ship.
- Apr 22 1863 – Civil War: Grierson's 15 day Raid begins - troops under Union Army Colonel Benjamin Grierson attack central Mississippi.

- Apr 22 1898 – Spanish*American War: The United States Navy begins a blockade of Cuban ports and the USS Nashville captures a Spanish merchant ship. When the U.S. Congress issued a declaration of war on April 25, it declared that a state of war had existed from this date.
- Apr 22 1915 – WWI: The use of poison gas in World War I escalates when chlorine gas is released as a chemical weapon in the Second Battle of Ypres.
- Apr 22 1915 – WWI: After six months of battle, the Austrian garrison at Przemysl (now in Poland), the citadel guarding the northeastern-most point of the Austro-Hungarian empire, falls to the Russians on March 22, 1915.
- Apr 22 1918 - WWI: German fighter ace Manfred von Richthofen, better known as "The Red Baron", is shot down and killed over Vaux-sur-Somme in France.
- Apr 22 1943 – WW2: USS Grenadier (SS-210) scuttled after Japanese seaplane attacks (936 Kokutai) damaged the boat the previous day, off Penang, Malaysia. 76 POWs, 4 later died.
- Apr 22 1944 – WW2: The 1st Air Commando Group using Sikorsky R-4 helicopters stage the first use of helicopters in combat with CSAR operations in the China-Burma-India theater.
- Apr 22 1944 – WW2: Operation Persecution - Allied forces land in the Hollandia (currently known as Jayapura) area of New Guinea. After the 3 months it took to defeat the enemy casualties and losses totaled: US 527 – JP 12,811.
- Apr 22 1945 – WW2: Prisoners at the Jasenovac concentration camp revolt. 520 are killed and 80 escape. It was one of the largest concentration (extermination) camps in Europe credited with killing 350 to 800,000 inmates over its 3 ½ years of operation.
- Apr 22 1945 – WW2: Führerbunker: After learning that Soviet forces have taken Eberswalde without a fight, Adolf Hitler admits defeat in his underground bunker and states that suicide is his only recourse.
- Apr 22 1945 – WW2: Soviet forces south of Berlin at Zossen attack the German High Command headquarters.
- Apr 22 1947 – Cold War: In response to public fears and Congressional investigations into communism in the United States, President Harry S. Truman issues an executive decree establishing a sweeping loyalty investigation of federal employees.
- Apr 22 1951 - Korean War: The Chinese People's Volunteer Army begin assaulting positions defended by the Royal Australian Regiment and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry at the Battle of Kapyong.
- Apr 22 1951 – Ticker-tape parade for General MacArthur in NYC.



- Apr 22 1965 - Vietnam War: The State Department acknowledges that the United States had supplied the South Vietnamese armed forces with a “non-lethal gas which disables temporarily” for use “in tactical situations in which the Viet Cong intermingle with or take refuge among non-combatants, rather than use artillery or aerial bombardment.” This announcement triggered a storm of criticism worldwide. The North Vietnamese and the Soviets loudly protested the introduction of “poison gas” into the war. Secretary of State Dean Rusk insisted at a news conference on March 24 that the United States was “not embarking upon gas warfare,” but was merely employing “a gas which has been commonly adopted by the police forces of the world as riot-control agents.”
- Apr 22 1968 - Vietnam War: President Lyndon B. Johnson announces the appointment of Gen. William Westmoreland as Army Chief of Staff; Gen. Creighton Abrams replaced him as commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam. Westmoreland had first assumed command of U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam in June 1964, and in that capacity was in charge of all American military forces in Vietnam. One of the war’s most controversial figures, General Westmoreland was given many honors when the fighting was going well, but when the war turned sour, many Americans blamed him for problems in Vietnam. Negative feeling about Westmoreland grew particularly strong following the Tet Offensive of 1968.
- Apr 22 1972 - Vietnam War: Increased American bombing in Vietnam prompts anti-war protests in Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco.
- Apr 22 1975 - Vietnam War: President of South Vietnam Nguyen Van Thieu flees Saigon, as Xuan Loc, the last South Vietnamese outpost blocking a direct North Vietnamese assault on Saigon, falls.
- Apr 22 2008 – The United States Air Force retires the remaining F-117 Nighthawk aircraft in service.
- Apr 23 1775 – American Revolution: During a speech before the second Virginia Convention, Patrick Henry responds to the increasingly oppressive British rule over the American colonies by declaring, “I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” Following the signing of the American Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, Patrick Henry was appointed governor of Virginia by the Continental Congress.
- Apr 23 1862 – Civil War: At the First Battle of Kernstown, Virginia, Confederate General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson suffers a rare defeat when his attack on Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley fails.
- Apr 23 1899 – Quingua, Luzon, Philippine Islands — An American force consisting of four battalions of infantry from Nebraska and Iowa plus a battery of guns from the Utah Light Artillery, is fiercely engaged by Filipino insurgents about 20 miles north of the capital of Manila.
- Apr 23 1919 – WWI: At 7:20 in the morning an explosion in the Place de la Republique in Paris announces the first attack of a new German gun. The Pariskanone, or Paris gun, as it came to be known, was manufactured by Krupps; it was 210mm, with a 118-foot-long barrel, which could fire a shell the impressive distance of some 130,000 feet, or 25 miles, into the air. Three of them fired on Paris that day from a gun site at CrÉpy-en-Laonnaise, 74 miles away.
- Apr 23 1919 – PreWW2: Benito Mussolini, an Italian World War I veteran and publisher of Socialist newspapers, breaks with the Italian Socialists and establishes the nationalist Fasci di Combattimento, named after the Italian peasant revolutionaries, or “Fighting Bands,” from the 19th

century. Commonly known as the Fascist Party, Mussolini's new right-wing organization advocated Italian nationalism, had black shirts for uniforms, and launched a program of terrorism and intimidation against its leftist opponents. (<http://www.history.com/news/9-things-you-may-not-know-about-mussolini>).

- Apr 23 1941 – WW2: The Greek government and King George II evacuate Athens before the invading Wehrmacht.
- Apr 23 1942 – WW2: Baedeker Blitz - German bombers hit Exeter, Bath and York in retaliation for the British raid on Lübeck.
- Apr 23 1944 – WW2: Italian partisans operating in Rome threw a bomb at an SS unit, killing 33 soldiers. The very next day, the Germans rounded up 335 Italian civilians and took them to the Adeatine caves. They were all shot dead as revenge for the SS soldiers. Of the civilian victims, 253 were Catholic, 70 were Jewish and the remaining 12 were unidentified.
- Apr 23 1945 – WW2: Adolf Hitler's designated successor Hermann Göring sends him a telegram asking permission to take leadership of the Third Reich, which causes Hitler to replace him with Joseph Goebbels and Karl Dönitz.
- Apr 23 1945 – Cold War: In an address to the nation, President Ronald Reagan proposes that the United States embark on a program to develop antimissile technology that would make the country nearly impervious to attack by nuclear missiles. Reagan's speech marked the beginning of what came to be known as the controversial Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).
- Apr 23 1961 – Vietnam War: One of the first American casualties in Southeast Asia, an intelligence-gathering plane enroute from Laos to Saigon is shot down over the Plain of Jars in central Laos. The mission was flown in an attempt to determine the extent of the Soviet support being provided to the communist Pathet Lao guerrillas in Laos. The guerrillas had been waging a war against the Royal Lao government since 1959. In a television news conference, President John F. Kennedy warned of communist expansion in Laos and said that a cease-fire must precede the start of negotiations to establish a neutral and independent nation.
- Apr 23 1970 – Vietnam War: From Peking, Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia issues a public call for arms to be used against the Lon Nol government in Phnom Penh and requests the establishment of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) to unite all opposition factions against Lon Nol. North Vietnam, the National Liberation Front (Viet Cong), and the communist Pathet Lao immediately pledged their support to the new organization.
- Apr 24 1765 – American Revolution: Parliament passes the Quartering Act, outlining the locations and conditions in which British soldiers are to find room and board in the American colonies. It required the colonies to house British soldiers in barracks provided by the colonies. If the barracks were too small to house all the soldiers, then localities were to accommodate the soldiers in local inns, livery stables, ale houses, victualling houses, and the houses of sellers of wine. Should there still be soldiers without accommodation after all such public houses were filled, the colonies were then required to take, hire and make fit for the reception of his Majesty's forces, such and so many uninhabited houses, outhouses, barns, or other buildings as shall be necessary.
- Apr 24 1805 – U.S. Marines attack and capture the town of Derna in Tripoli from the Barbary pirates.
- Apr 24 1862 – Civil War: Abolitionist orator Wendell Phillips is booed while attempting to give a lecture in Cincinnati, Ohio. The angry crowd was opposed to fighting for the freedom of slaves, as Phillips advocated. He was pelted with rocks and eggs before friends whisked him away when a small riot broke out.

- Apr 24 1918 – WWI: First tank-to-tank combat, at Villers-Bretonneux, France, when three British Mark IVs met three German A7Vs.
- Apr 24 1944 – WW2: 1st Boeing B-29 arrives in China "over the Hump"
- Apr 24 1948 – Cold War: The Berlin airlift begins to relieve surrounded city. Ends 12 May 1949. Fatalities: 40 Britons and 31 Americans



Berliners watch a C-54 skymaster land at Tempelhof Airport, 1948

- Apr 24 1965 – Vietnam War: The first “teach-in” is conducted at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; two hundred faculty members participate by holding special anti-war seminars. Regular classes were canceled, and rallies and speeches dominated for 12 hours. On March 26, there was a similar teach-in at Columbia University in New York City; this form of protest eventually spread to many colleges and universities.
- Apr 24 1967 – Vietnam: American General William Westmoreland says that the enemy had gained support in the U.S. States that gives him hope that he can win politically that which he cannot win militarily.
- Apr 24 1975 – Vietnam: The North Vietnamese “Ho Chi Minh Campaign” begins. Despite the 1973 Paris Peace Accords cease fire, the fighting had continued between South Vietnamese forces and the North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam. In December 1974, the North Vietnamese launched a major attack against the lightly defended province of Phuoc Long, located north of Saigon along the Cambodian border. They successfully overran the provincial capital at Phuoc Binh on January 6, 1975
- Apr 24 1977 – Cold War: For the first time since severing diplomatic relations in 1961, Cuba and the United States enter into direct negotiations when the two nations discuss fishing rights. The talks marked a dramatic, but short-lived, change in relations between the two Cold War enemies.
- Apr 24 1980 – Operation Eagle Claw: A rescue attempt of the U.S. hostages held in Iran fails when a plane collides with a helicopter in the Iranian desert. Eight U.S. servicemen die.
- Apr 24 1999: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) commences air strikes against Yugoslavia with the bombing of Serbian military positions in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo. The NATO offensive came in response to a new wave of ethnic cleansing launched by Serbian forces against the Kosovar Albanians on March 20.
- Apr 25 1775 – American Revolution: British Parliament passes the Boston Port Act, closing the port of Boston and demanding that the city’s residents pay for the nearly \$1 million worth (in today’s money) of tea dumped into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773.
- Apr 25 1846 – Mexican*American War: Thornton Affair – Open conflict begins over the disputed border of Texas, triggering the Mexican–American War.
- Apr 25 1862 – Civil War: Forces under Union Admiral David Farragut demand the surrender of the Confederate city of New Orleans, Louisiana.

- Apr 25 1864 – Civil War: The Battle of Marks' Mills. Casualties and losses: US 1,500 - CSA 293. Result: Confederate victory.
- Apr 25 1865 – Civil War: Confederate General Robert E. Lee makes Fort Stedman, his last attack of the war, in a desperate attempt to break out of Petersburg, Virginia. The attack failed, and within a week Lee was evacuating his positions around Petersburg.
- Apr 25 1898 – Spanish*American War: The United States declares war on Spain.
- Apr 25 1915 - WWI: The Battle of Gallipoli - The invasion of the Turkish Gallipoli Peninsula by Australian, British, French and New Zealand troops begins with landings at Anzac Cove and Cape Helles.
- Apr 25 1918 - WWI: German forces cross the Somme River, achieving their first goal of the major spring offensive begun three days earlier on the Western Front. Operation Michael, engineered by the German chief of the general staff, Erich von Ludendorff, aimed to decisively break through the Allied lines on the Western Front and destroy the British and French forces.
- Apr 25 1941 – WW2: Yugoslavia, despite an early declaration of neutrality, signs the Tripartite Pact, forming an alliance with Axis powers Germany, Italy, and Japan.
- Apr 25 1945 – WW2: Elbe Day – United States and Soviet troops meet in Torgau along the River Elbe, cutting the Wehrmacht of Nazi Germany in two, a milestone in the approaching end of World War II in Europe.
- Apr 25 1945 – WW2: The last German troops retreat from Finland's soil in Lapland, ending the Lapland War. Military acts of Second World War end in Finland.
- Apr 25 1945 – WW2: The Nazi occupation army surrenders and leaves Northern Italy after a general partisan insurrection by the Italian resistance movement; the puppet fascist regime dissolves and Benito Mussolini tries to escape. This day is taken as symbolic of the Liberation of Italy.
- Apr 25 1951 - Korean War: Assaulting Chinese forces are forced to withdraw after heavy fighting with UN forces, primarily made up of Australian and Canadian troops, at the Battle of Kapyong. Casualties and losses: UN 146 - CH/NK ~1,000.
- Apr 25 1960 – The U.S. Navy submarine USS Triton completes the first submerged circumnavigation of the globe.
- Apr 25 1967 – Vietnam War: The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., leads a march of 5,000 antiwar demonstrators in Chicago. In an address to the demonstrators, King declared that the Vietnam War was “a blasphemy against all that America stands for.” King first began speaking out against American involvement in Vietnam in the summer of 1965. In addition to his moral objections to the war, he argued that the war diverted money and attention from domestic programs to aid the black poor. He was strongly criticized by other prominent civil rights leaders for attempting to link civil rights and the antiwar movement.
- Apr 25 1968 – Vietnam War: After being told by Defense Secretary Clark Clifford that the Vietnam War is a “real loser,” President Johnson, still uncertain about his course of action, decides to convene a nine-man panel of retired presidential advisors. The group, which became known as the “Wise Men,” included the respected generals Omar Bradley and Matthew Ridgway, distinguished State Department figures like Dean Acheson and George Ball, and McGeorge Bundy, National Security advisor to both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. After two days of deliberation the group reached a consensus: they advised against any further troop increases and recommended that the administration seek a negotiated peace.

- Apr 25 1972 – Vietnam War: Nguyen Hue Offensive - The North Vietnamese 320th Division forces 5,000 South Vietnamese troops to retreat and traps about 2,500 others northwest of Kontum.
- Apr 25 1975 – Vietnam War: As North Vietnamese forces close in on the South Vietnamese capital Saigon, the Australian Embassy is closed and evacuated, almost ten years to the day since the first Australian troop commitment to South Vietnam.
- Apr 25 1994 – Somalia: At the end of a largely unsuccessful 15-month mission, the last U.S. troops depart, leaving 20,000 U.N. troops behind to keep the peace and facilitate “nation building” in the divided country.
- Apr 26 1865 – Civil War: Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrenders his army to General William Tecumseh Sherman at the Bennett Place near Durham, North Carolina. Also the date of Confederate Memorial Day for most states.
- Apr 26 1865 – Union cavalry troopers corner and shoot dead John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln, in Virginia.
- Apr 26 1915 –WWI: After receiving the promise of significant territorial gains, Italy signs the Treaty of London, committing itself to enter World War I on the side of the Allies.
- Apr 26 1933 – PreWW2: The Gestapo, the official secret police force of Nazi Germany, is established.
- Apr 26 1937 – PreWW2: During the Spanish Civil War, the German military tests its powerful new air force—the Luftwaffe—on the Basque town of Guernica in northern Spain. One-third of Guernica’s 5,000 inhabitants were killed or wounded, and fires engulfed the city and burned for days. The indiscriminate killing of civilians at Guernica aroused world opinion and became a symbol of fascist brutality. Unfortunately, by 1942, all major participants in World War II had adopted the bombing innovations developed by the Nazis at Guernica, and by the war’s end, in 1945, millions of innocent civilians had perished under Allied and Axis air raids.
- Apr 26 1944 – WW2: General Heinrich Kreipe, Commander of the German 22nd Air Landing Infantry Division, is captured by Allied commandos in occupied Crete.
- Apr 26 1945 – WW2: Filipino troops of the 66th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Commonwealth Army, USAFIP–NL and the American troops of the 33rd and 37th Infantry Division, United States Army were liberated in Baguio City. All had fought against the Japanese forces under General Tomoyuki Yamashita.
- Apr 26 1945 – WW2: Battle of Bautzen – last successful German tank–offensive of the war and last noteworthy victory of the Wehrmacht. Casualties and losses: Ger 6,500 – Soviets/Polish 18,232.



- Apr 26 1954 – Cold War: In an effort to resolve several problems in Asia, including the war between the French and Vietnamese nationalists in Indochina, representatives from the world's powers meet in Geneva. The conference marked a turning point in the United States' involvement in Vietnam.
- April 26, 1971 – Vietnam: The U.S. command in Saigon announces that the U.S. force level in Vietnam is 281,400 men, the lowest since July 1966.
- April 26, 1972 – Vietnam: President Nixon, despite the ongoing communist offensive, announces that another 20,000 U.S. troops will be withdrawn from Vietnam in May and June, reducing authorized troop strength to 49,000. Nixon emphasized that while U.S. ground troops were being withdrawn, sea and air support for the South Vietnamese would continue. In fact, the U.S. Navy doubled the number of its fighting ships off Vietnam.
- April 26, 1986 – The world's worst nuclear power plant accident occurs at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in the Soviet Union. Thirty-two people died and dozens more suffered radiation burns in the opening days of the crisis, but only after Swedish authorities reported the fallout did Soviet authorities reluctantly admit that an accident had occurred.
- April 26, 1773 – American Revolution: The British Parliament passes the Tea Act, a bill designed to save the faltering East India Company from bankruptcy by greatly lowering the tea tax it paid to the British government and, thus, granting it a de facto monopoly on the American tea trade. Because all legal tea entered the colonies through England, allowing the East India Company to pay lower taxes in Britain also allowed it to sell tea more cheaply in the colonies. Even untaxed Dutch tea, which entered the colonies illegally through smuggling, was more expensive than the East India tea, after the act took effect.
- Apr 27 1777 – American Revolution: The Battle of Ridgefield: A British invasion force engages and defeats Continental Army regulars and militia irregulars at Ridgefield, Connecticut. Casualties and losses: US 100 - GB 194. Result, a Tactical British victory and a Strategic American victory.
- Apr 27 1805 – First Barbary War: United States Marines and Berbers attack the Tripolitan city of Derna
- Apr 27 1813 – War of 1812: United States troops capture the capital of Upper Canada York (present day Toronto, Canada).
- Apr 27 1865 – Civil War: The steamboat SS Sultana, carrying 2,400 passengers, explodes and sinks in the Mississippi River, killing 1,700, most of whom are Union survivors of the Andersonville and Cahaba Prisons. The federal government promised to pay \$5 for each enlisted man and \$10 for each officer delivered to the North.
- Apr 27 1916 – WWI: Three British officers, including the famous Captain T.E. Lawrence (known as Lawrence of Arabia), attempt to engineer the escape of thousands of British troops under siege at the city of Kut-al-Amara in Mesopotamia through a secret negotiation with the Turkish command. T made their offer: if the Turks allowed the men in Kut to leave the city and rejoin Allied regional forces located to the south of Kut, they would be rewarded with £1 million in gold. Turkish officers, confident of their imminent victory at Kut, refused the offer, and all Lawrence and his comrades were able to secure was the release of some of the wounded. Kut fell on April 29, as Townshend and his remaining 13,000 men were taken prisoner, in the largest single surrender of troops in British history to that point.
- Apr 27 1916 – WWI: The German army enters the Greek capital, signaling the end of Greek resistance. All mainland Greece and all the Greek Aegean islands except Crete are under German

occupation by May 11. In fending off the Axis invaders, the Greeks suffer the loss of 15,700 men. Greece will not be liberated until 1944, by British troops from the Mediterranean theater.

- Apr 27 1972 – Vietnam: North Vietnamese troops shatter defenses north of Quang Tri and move to within 2.5 miles of the city. Using Russian-built tanks, they took Dong Ha, 7 miles north of Quang Tri, the next day and continued to tighten their ring around Quang Tri, shelling it heavily. South Vietnamese troops suffered their highest casualties for any week in the war in the bitter fighting.
- Apr 27 1975 – Vietnam: Saigon is encircled by North Vietnamese troops.
- Apr 27 1978 – Cold War: Afghanistan President Sardar Mohammed Daoud is overthrown and murdered in a coup led by procommunist rebels. The brutal action marked the beginning of political upheaval in Afghanistan that resulted in intervention by Soviet troops less than two years later.
- Apr 28 1915 – WWI: The International Congress of Women convenes at The Hague, Netherlands, with more than 1,200 delegates from 12 countries—including Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Poland, Belgium and the United States—all dedicated to the cause of peace and a resolution of the great international conflict that was World War I.
- Apr 28 1942 – As result of a Gallup Poll the war is titled WW2
- Apr 28 1944 – WW2: During Exercise Tiger, a large-scale rehearsal for the invasion of Normandy, 9 German E-boats attacked an Allied convoy, killing 946 American servicemen.
- Apr 28 1945 – WW2: Benito Mussolini and his mistress Clara Petacci are executed. Not wanting to fall into the hands of either the British or the Americans, and knowing that the communist partisans, who had been fighting the remnants of roving Italian fascist soldiers and thugs in the north, would try him as a war criminal, he settled on escape to a neutral country. He and his mistress made it to the Swiss border, only to discover that the guards had crossed over to the partisan side. Knowing they would not let him pass, he disguised himself in a Luftwaffe coat and helmet, hoping to slip into Austria with some German soldiers. His subterfuge proved incompetent, and he and Petacci were discovered by partisans and shot, their bodies then transported by truck to Milan, where they were hung upside down and displayed publicly for revilement by the masses. The corpses were beaten and urinated upon and finally left to hang upside down, for public display, from a rusty beam outside a petrol station. Teo days later Hitler was also dead.



Benito Mussolini



Clara Petacci

- Apr 28 1952 – Occupied Japan: The United States occupation of Japan ends as the Treaty of San Francisco, ratified September 8, 1951, comes into force.
- Apr 28 1965 – Cold War: In an effort to forestall what he claims will be a “communist dictatorship” in the Dominican Republic, President Lyndon B. Johnson sends more than 22,000 U.S. troops to restore order on the island nation. Johnson’s action provoked loud protests in Latin America and skepticism among many in the United States. Troops stay until October 1966

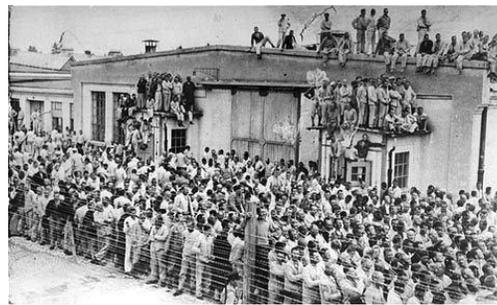
- Apr 28 1970 – Vietnam: U.S. President Richard M. Nixon formally authorizes American combat troops to fight communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.
- Apr 28 1972 – Vietnam: The North Vietnamese offensive continues as Fire Base Bastogne, 20 miles west of Hue, falls to the communists. Fire Base Birmingham, 4 miles to the east, was also under heavy attack. As fighting intensified all across the northern province of South Vietnam, much of Hue’s civilian population tried to escape south to Da Nang. Farther south in the Central Highlands, 20,000 North Vietnamese troops converged on Kontum, encircling it and cutting it off. Only 65 miles north of Saigon, An Loc lay under siege and continued to take a pummeling from North Vietnamese artillery, rockets, and ground attacks. To the American command in Saigon, it appeared that South Vietnam was on the verge of total defeat by the North Vietnamese, but the South Vietnamese were able to hold out.
- Apr 28 1975 – Vietnam: General Cao Van Vien, chief of the South Vietnamese military, departs for the US as the North Vietnamese Army closed in on victory.
- Apr 28 1986 – The United States Navy aircraft carrier USS Enterprise becomes the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to transit the Suez Canal, navigating from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea to relieve the USS Coral Sea.
- Apr 29 1781 – American Revolution: British and French ships clash in the Battle of Fort Royal off the coast of Martinique resulting in a French tactical victory.
- Apr 29 1862 – Civil War: New Orleans, Louisiana falls to Union forces under Admiral David. Crowds cursed the Yankees as all Confederate flags in the city were lowered and stars and stripes were raised in their place. The Confederacy lost a major city, and the lower Mississippi soon became a Union highway for 400 miles to Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- Apr 29 1916 - WWI: In the single largest surrender of troops in British history to that time, some 13,000 soldiers under the command of Sir Charles Townshend give in on April 29, 1916, after withstanding nearly five months under siege by Turkish and German forces at the town of Kut-al-Amara, on the Tigris River in the Basra province of Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).
- Apr 29 1944 – WWII: British agent Nancy Wake, a leading figure in the French Resistance and the Gestapo's most wanted person, parachutes back into France to become a liaison between London and the local maquis group.
- Apr 29 1945 – WWI: Battle of the Lys – The 22 day battle which was part of the German spring offensive ends. Casualties and losses: Allies 120,000 – Ger 120,000.
- Apr 29 1945 – WW2: The German army in Italy unconditionally surrenders to the Allies.
- Apr 29 1945 – WW2 - Fuehrerbunker: Adolf Hitler marries his longtime partner Eva Braun in a Berlin bunker and designates Admiral Karl Dönitz as his successor. Both Hitler and Braun commit suicide the following day. Eva Braun met Hitler while employed as an assistant to Hitler’s official photographer. Of a middle-class Catholic background, Braun spent her time with Hitler out of public view, entertaining herself by skiing and swimming. She had no discernible influence on Hitler’s political career but provided a certain domesticity to the life of the dictator. Loyal to the end, she refused to leave the Berlin bunker buried beneath the chancellery as the Russians closed in.



- Apr 29 1945 – WW2: The U.S. Seventh Army’s 45th Infantry Division liberates Dachau, the first concentration camp established by Germany’s Nazi regime. A major Dachau subcamp was liberated the same day by the 42nd Rainbow Division. Prisoners at Dachau were used as forced laborers, initially in the construction and expansion of the camp and later for German armaments production. The camp served as the training center for SS concentration camp guards and was a model for other Nazi concentration camps. Dachau was also the first Nazi camp to use prisoners as human guinea pigs in medical experiments. At Dachau, Nazi scientists tested the effects of freezing and changes to atmospheric pressure on inmates, infected them with malaria and tuberculosis and treated them with experimental drugs, and forced them to test methods of making seawater potable and of halting excessive bleeding. Hundreds of prisoners died or were crippled as a result of these experiments. In the course of Dachau’s history, at least 160,000 prisoners passed through the main camp, and 90,000 through the subcamps. Incomplete records indicate that at least 32,000 of the inmates perished at Dachau and its subcamps, but countless more were shipped to extermination camps elsewhere.



Dachau Death March



Inmates gather to hear a speech by Hitler

- Apr 29 1946 – WW2: The International Military Tribunal for the Far East convenes and indicts former Prime Minister of Japan Hideki Tojo and 28 former Japanese leaders for war crimes. In September 1945, Tojo tried to commit suicide by shooting himself but was saved by an American physician who gave him a transfusion of American blood. He was eventually hanged by the Americans in 1948 after having been found guilty of war crimes
- Apr 29 1950 – Cold War: In response to Senator Joseph McCarthy’s charge that former State Department consultant and university professor Owen Lattimore was a top Soviet spy in the United States, Secretary of State Dean Acheson and three former secretaries of state deny that Lattimore had any influence on U.S. foreign policy. The Lattimore case was one of the most famous episodes of the “red scare” in the United States.
- Apr 29 1970 – Vietnam: U.S. and South Vietnamese forces launch a limited “incursion” into Cambodia. The campaign included 13 major ground operations to clear North Vietnamese sanctuaries 20 miles inside the Cambodian border. Some 50,000 South Vietnamese soldiers and 30,000 U.S. troops were involved, making it the largest operation of the war since Operation Junction City in 1967.
- Apr 29 1971 – Vietnam: U.S. casualty figures for April 18 to April 24 are released. The 45 killed during that time brought total U.S. losses for the Vietnam War to 45,019 since 1961. These figures made Southeast Asia fourth in total losses sustained by the U.S. during a war, topped only by the number of losses incurred during the Civil War, World War I, and World War II.
- 29 Apr 1975 – Vietnam: Operation Frequent Wind - The largest helicopter evacuation on record, begins removing the last Americans from Saigon. In 19 hours, 81 helicopters carried more than 1,000 Americans and almost 6,000 Vietnamese to aircraft carriers offshore. At 7:53 a.m. on April 30, the last helicopter lifted off the roof of the embassy and headed out to sea. Later that morning,

North Vietnamese tanks crashed through the gates of the Presidential Palace. North Vietnamese Col. Bui Tin accepted the surrender from Gen. Duong Van Minh, who had taken over from Tran Van Huong (who only spent one day in power after President Nguyen Van Thieu fled). The Vietnam War was over.



- Apr 29 1990 – Cold War: Wrecking cranes began tearing down Berlin Wall at Brandenburg Gate



- Apr 29 2004 – The National World War II Memorial opens in Washington, D.C., to thousands of visitors, providing overdue recognition for the 16 million U.S. men and women who served in the war. The memorial is located on 7.4 acres on the former site of the Rainbow Pool at the National Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. The Capitol dome is seen to the east, and Arlington Cemetery is just across the Potomac River to the west.



- Apr 30 1943 – WW2: Operation Mincemeat – The submarine HMS Seraph surfaces in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Spain to deposit a dead man planted with false invasion plans and dressed as a British military intelligence officer.
- Apr 30 1945 – WW2: Holed up in a bunker under his headquarters in Berlin, Adolf Hitler and his new wife commit suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule and shooting themselves in the head. Hitler and Braun's bodies were hastily cremated in the chancellery garden, as Soviet forces closed in

on the building. When the Soviets reached the chancellery, they removed Hitler's ashes, continually changing their location so as to prevent Hitler devotees from creating a memorial at his final resting place. Karl Donitz becomes his successor. Soon after, Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allied forces, ending Hitler's dreams of a "1,000-year" Reich. His remains were never located.



- Apr 30 1975 – Vietnam: Fall of Saigon. Communist forces gain control of Saigon. The Vietnam War formally ends with the unconditional surrender of South Vietnamese president Duong Van Minh.
- Apr 30 2004 – U.S. media release graphic photos of American soldiers abusing and sexually humiliating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison.



[Source: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history> | April 2018 ++]