



Military History Anniversaries 01 thru 15 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 01 1745: French & Indian War: A fleet consisting of 19 transport ships escorted by 13 armed merchant vessels is carrying a total of 4,220 American colonial militiamen toward Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. The goal is the capture of Louisbourg, the largest fort in North America. It was built and garrisoned by the French to protect the entrance to the St. Lawrence River and French Canada.
- Apr 01 1865 – Civil War: Battle of Five Forks – In Siege of Petersburg Confederate General Robert E. Lee's supply line into Petersburg, Virginia, is closed when Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant collapse the end of Lee's lines around Petersburg. The Confederates suffer heavy casualties, and the battle triggered Lee's retreat from Petersburg as the two armies began a race that would end a week later at Appomattox Court House. Casualties and losses: US 830 - CSA 2,950
- Apr 01 1893 – The rank of Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy is established.



- Apr 01 1924 – Pre WW2: Adolf Hitler is sentenced to five years in jail for his participation in the "Beer Hall Putsch". However, he spends only nine months in jail, during which time he writes *Mein Kampf*.
- Apr 01 1942 – WW2: Rationing - Anyone wishing to purchase a new toothpaste tube, then made from metal, had to turn in an empty one.
- Apr 01 1944 – WW2: Navigation errors lead to an accidental American bombing of the Swiss city of Schaffhausen.
- Apr 01 1945 – WW2: Operation Iceberg – After suffering the loss of 116 planes and damage to three aircraft carriers, 50,000 U.S. combat troops of the 10th Army, under the command of

Lieutenant General Simon B. Buckner Jr., land on the southwest coast of the Japanese island of Okinawa, 350 miles south of Kyushu, the southern main island of Japan.



- Apr 01 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. Military forces, under direction of the Soviet-controlled government in East Germany, set-up a land blockade of West Berlin. The problems associated with the Soviet, British, and U.S. occupation of Germany grew steadily more serious in the following months.
- Apr 01 1954 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorizes the creation of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado.
- Apr 01 1992 – Start of the Bosnian War. The most recent figures suggest that around 100,000 people were killed during the war. In addition, an estimated total of 20,000 to 50,000 women were raped and over 2.2 million people were displaced, making it the most devastating conflict in Europe since the end of World War II.
- Apr 02 1863 – Civil War: Richmond Riots - Responding to acute food shortages, hundreds of angry women riot in Richmond, Virginia, demanding that the government release emergency supplies. For several hours, the mob moved through the city, breaking windows and looting stores, before Confederate President Jefferson Davis threw his pocket change at them from the top of a wagon. Davis ordered the crowd to disperse or he would order the militia to fire upon them. The riot ended peacefully, although 44 women and 29 men were arrested.
- Apr 02 1865 – Civil War: The 10 month Siege of Petersburg is broken – Union troops capture the trenches around Petersburg, Virginia, forcing Confederate General Robert E. Lee to retreat. Casualties and losses: US 42,000 - CSA 28,000
- Apr 02 1865 – Civil War: Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet flee the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia.
- Apr 02 1885 – Cree warriors attacked the village of Frog Lake, North-West Territories, Canada, killing 9.
- Apr 02 1917 – WWI: The world must be made safe for democracy, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaims, as he appears before Congress to ask for a declaration of war against Germany.
- Apr 02 1941 – WW2: German Lieutenant General Erwin Rommel, “the Desert Fox,” resumes his advance into Cyrenaica, modern-day Libya, signaling the beginning of what nine days later will become the recapture of Libya by the Axis forces.



German general Erwin Rommel arrival in the desert in early 1941

- Apr 02 1972 – Vietnam: The Easter Offensive begins – Soldiers of Hanoi's 304th Division, supported by Soviet-made tanks and heavy artillery, take the northern half of the Quang Tri province. This left only Quang Tri City (the combat base on the outskirts of the city) and Dong Ha in South Vietnamese hands. South Vietnam's 3rd Division commander Brig. Gen. Vu Van Giai moved his staff out of the Quang Tri combat base to the citadel at Quang Tri City, the apparent North Vietnamese objective.
- Apr 02 1975 – Vietnam: As North Vietnamese tanks and infantry continue to push the remnants of South Vietnam's 22nd Division and waves of civilian refugees from the Quang Ngai Province, the South Vietnamese Navy begins to evacuate soldiers and civilians by sea from Qui Nhon. Shortly thereafter, the South Vietnamese abandoned Tuy Hoa and Nha Trang, leaving the North Vietnamese in control of more than half of South Vietnam's territory.
- Apr 02 1989 – Cold War: In an effort to mend strained relations between the Soviet Union and Cuba, Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrives in Havana to meet with Fidel Castro. Castro's suspicions regarding Gorbachev's economic and political reform measures in the Soviet Union, together with the fact that Russia's ailing economy could no longer support massive economic assistance to Cuba, kept the meetings from achieving any solid agreements.
- Apr 03 1776 – American Revolution: Because it lacked sufficient funds to build a strong navy, the Continental Congress gives privateers permission to attack any and all British ships. In a bill signed by John Hancock the Congress issued, INSTRUCTIONS to the COMMANDERS of Private Ships or vessels of War, which shall have Commissions of Letters of Marque and Reprisal, authorizing them to make Captures of British Vessels and Cargoes.
- Apr 03 1865 – Civil War: The Rebel capital of Richmond, Virginia, falls to the Union, the most significant sign that the Confederacy is nearing its final days.
- Apr 03 1918 – WWI: The Allied Supreme War Council formally confers the post of commander in chief on the Western Front to General Ferdinand Foch.
- Apr 03 1942 – WW2: The Japanese 14th Army stage a major offensive against Allied troops in Bataan, the peninsula guarding Manila Bay of the Philippine Islands. It was led by General Masaharu Homma, who had already forced General Douglas MacArthur's troops from Manila, Bataan, in part because of poor strategizing on MacArthur's part.
- Apr 03 1943 – WW2: USS Pickerel (SS-177) sunk by Japanese minelayer Shirakami and auxiliary subchaser Bunzan Maru off northern Honshu, Japan. 74 killed
- Apr 03 1945 – WW2: US 1st Army conquers Hofgeismar, Germany

- Apr 03 1946 – Post WW2: Japanese Lt. General Masaharu Homma is executed in the Philippines for leading the Bataan Death March. He maintained that he had no knowledge of atrocities until after they had occurred.



Masaharu Homma

- Apr 03 1948 – Cold War: President Harry S. Truman signs off on legislation establishing the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948, more popularly known as the Marshall Plan. The act eventually provided over \$12 billion of assistance to aid in the economic recovery of Western Europe.
- Apr 03 1969 – Vietnam: Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird announces that the United States is moving to “Vietnamize” the war as rapidly as possible. By this, he meant that the responsibility for the fighting would be gradually transferred to the South Vietnamese as they became more combat capable.
- Apr 03 1972 – Vietnam: The United States prepares hundreds of B-52s and fighter-bombers for possible air strikes to blunt the recently launched North Vietnamese invasion. The aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk was sent from the Philippines to join the carriers already off the coast of Vietnam and provide additional air support.
- Apr 04 1776 – American Revolution: After the successful siege of Boston, General George Washington begins marching his unpaid soldiers from their headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, toward New York in anticipation of a British invasion.
- Apr 04 Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln visits the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, a day after Union forces capture it. Lincoln, accompanied by a small group of soldiers and a growing entourage of freed slaves, walked to the Confederate White House and sat in President Jefferson Davis’s chair. He remained in Richmond a few more days in hopes that Robert E. Lee’s army would surrender, but on April 8 he headed back to Washington. Six days later, Lincoln was shot as he watched a play at Ford’s Theater.
- Apr 04 1917 – WWI: The U.S. Senate votes 90–6 to enter World War I on the Allied side.
- Apr 04 1918 – WWI: German forces in the throes of a major spring offensive on the Western Front launch a renewed attack on Allied positions between the Somme and Avre Rivers. With a bombardment by more than 1,200 guns and a total of 15 divisions sent against only seven of the enemy’s, the Germans attacked in force at Villers-Bretonneux. German military officials announce that their attacks in the Somme region had claimed a total of 90,000 Allied prisoners since March 21.
- Apr 04 1944 – WW2: First bombardment of oil refineries in Bucharest by Anglo-American forces kills 3000 civilians.
- Apr 04 1945 – WW2: Battle of Kassel - After a four day struggle with the German Army American troops capture Kassel Germany. Casualties and losses: US light – GE 50 killed & 5400+ POW

- Apr 04 1945 – WW2: American troops liberate Ohrdruf forced labor camp in Germany. It was the first Nazi concentration camp liberated by U.S. troops. They discovered piles of bodies, some covered with lime, and others partially incinerated on pyres.



Gallows



Cremation Pyre



Stacked Bodies

- Apr 04 1949 – Cold War: The United States and 11 other nations establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a mutual defense pact aimed at containing possible Soviet aggression against Western Europe. NATO stood as the main U.S.-led military alliance against the Soviet Union throughout the duration of the Cold War.
- Apr 04 1967 – Vietnam: The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, delivers a speech entitled “Beyond Vietnam” in front of 3,000 people at Riverside Church in New York City. In it, he says that there is a common link forming between the civil rights and peace movements.
- Apr 04 1973 – Vietnam: A Lockheed C-141 Starlifter, dubbed the Hanoi Taxi, makes the last flight of Operation Homecoming.
- Apr 04 1975 – Vietnam: Operation Baby Lift – A major U.S. airlift of South Vietnamese orphans begins with disaster when an Air Force cargo jet crashes shortly after departing from Tan Son Nhut airbase in Saigon. More than 138 passengers, mostly children, were killed.
- Apr 05 1862 – Civil War: The Battle of Yorktown - Union forces under General George McClellan arrive at Yorktown, Virginia, and establish siege lines instead of directly attacking the Confederate defenders. This was the opening of McClellan's Peninsular campaign.
- Apr 05 1918 – WWI: General Erich Ludendorff formally ends “Operation Michael,” the first of 3 stages of the final major German offensive of World War I.
- Apr 05 1943 – WW2: American bomber aircraft accidentally cause more than 900 civilian deaths, including 209 children, and 1300 wounded among the civilian population of the Belgian town of Mortsel. The target is the Erla factory one kilometer from the residential area hit.
- Apr 05 1945 - Cold War: Yugoslav leader Josip "Tito" Broz signs an agreement with the Soviet Union to allow "temporary entry of Soviet troops into Yugoslav territory".
- Apr 05 1944 – WW2: The Germans execute 270 inhabitants of the Greek town of Kleisoura in reprisal for the active participation of Cretan civilians in the Battle of Crete.
- Apr 05 1942 – WW2: The Imperial Japanese Navy launches a carrier-based air attack on Colombo, Ceylon during the Indian Ocean Raid. Port and civilian facilities are damaged and the Royal Navy cruisers HMS Cornwall and HMS Dorsetshire are sunk southwest of the island.
- Apr 05 1945 – WW2: Yugoslav partisan leader Tito signs an agreement permitting temporary entry of Soviet troops into Yugoslav territory. As part of the agreement Tito secured a proviso that the Soviets would leave Yugoslavia once its “operational task” was completed. Ensuring

compliance with this clause proved problematic, as Stalin tried to maintain a presence in postwar Yugoslavia, attempting to co-opt the Yugoslav Communist Party and create another puppet state. He failed.

- Apr 05 1951 – Cold War: The climax of the most sensational spy trial in American history is reached when a federal judge sentences Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to death for their roles in passing atomic secrets to the Soviets. Although the couple proclaimed their innocence, they died in the electric chair in June 1953.



- Apr 05 1968 – Vietnam: Operation Pegasus was launched by the 1st Air Cavalry Division to relieve the marines at Khe Sanh.
- Apr 05 1969 – Vietnam: Approximately 100,000 antiwar demonstrators march in New York City to demand that the United States withdraw from Vietnam. The weekend of antiwar protests ended with demonstrations and parades in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and other cities.
- Apr 05 1972 – Vietnam: Moving out of eastern Cambodia, North Vietnamese troops open the second front of their offensive with a drive into Binh Long Province, attacking Loc Ninh, a border town 75 miles north of Saigon on Highway 13. At the same time, additional North Vietnamese cut the highway between An Loc, the provincial capital, and Saigon to the south, effectively isolating An Loc from outside support.
- Apr 05 2009 – North Korea launches its controversial Kwangmyongsong-2 rocket. The satellite passed over mainland Japan, which prompted an immediate reaction from the United Nations Security Council, as well as participating states of Six-party talks.
- Apr 06 1776 – American Revolution: The Continental Congress takes the first step toward American independence by announcing their decision to open all American ports to international trade with any part of the world that is not under British rule.
- Apr 06 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Shiloh – The Civil War explodes in the west as the armies of Union General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston collide at Shiloh, near Pittsburgh Landing in Tennessee. It became one of the bloodiest engagements of the war, and the level of violence shocked North and South alike.
- Apr 06 1865 – Civil War: The Battle of Sayler's Creek – Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia fights its last major battle while in retreat from Richmond, Virginia. Casualties and losses: US 1,148 - CSA 7,700.
- Apr 06 1866 – Post Civil War: The Grand Army of the Republic, an American patriotic organization composed of Union veterans of the American Civil War, is founded. It lasts until 1956.



GAR Parade during the 1914 Encampment in Detroit, Michigan

- Apr 06 1917 – WWI: Two days after the U.S. Senate votes 82 to 6 to declare war against Germany, the U.S. House of Representatives endorses the decision by a vote of 373 to 50, and the United States formally enters the First World War.
- Apr 06 1941 – WW2: The German air force launches Operation Castigo, the bombing of Belgrade, as 24 divisions and 1,200 tanks drive into Greece. The attack on Yugoslavia was swift and brutal, an act of terror resulting in the death of 17,000 civilians—the largest number of civilian casualties in a single day since the start of the war.
- Apr 06 1945 – WW2: The Battle of Slater's Knoll on Bougainville comes to an end. Casualties and losses: AUS 189 - JP 1,624.
- Apr 06 1965 – Vietnam: National Security Action Memorandum 328 is signed. The memorandum authorized U.S. personnel to take the offensive in South Vietnam to secure “enclaves” and to support South Vietnamese operations. The so-called “enclave strategy” called for the U.S. forces to control the densely-populated coastal areas while the South Vietnamese forces moved inland to fight the communists. This memorandum represented a major mission change for the American soldiers and Marines who had recently arrived in Vietnam. American forces had been limited to strictly defensive operations around the U.S. air bases, but the memorandum authorized them to go on the offensive to secure large areas of terrain, an escalation of U.S. involvement in the war.
- Apr 06 1972 – Vietnam: Easter Offensive – Clear weather for the first time in three days allows U.S. planes and Navy warships to begin the sustained air strikes and naval bombardments ordered by President Nixon in response to the massive North Vietnamese offensive launched on 30 MAR.
- Apr 06 1990 – Cold War: U.S. and Soviet diplomats meeting in Washington, D.C., make significant progress in negotiations concerning the role to be played by the newly reunified Germany in Europe.
- Apr 07 1712 – Tuscarora War: Col. John Barnwell, commanding a combined white militia and friendly Indian force numbering about 300 men, again besieges this main encampment of the hostile Tuscarora Indians. The Tuscarora had launched a surprise attack in September 1711, killing about 130 colonists, prompting North Carolina to ask Virginia and South Carolina for help. Barnwell's army was composed mostly of South Carolina militia. He had besieged the hostiles' fort in March, but agreed to a truce after the Indians began torturing their captives within earshot of the militia. When the Tuscarora failed to honor part of their agreement, Barnwell maintained the siege for 10 days, finally forcing the Indians to surrender. All captives were freed and other conditions were met bringing the Tuscarora War to a close.
- Apr 07 1776 – American Revolution: Captain John Barry and the USS Lexington captured the HMS Edward, a tender ship for the British Man-O-War, the HMS Liverpool. It was the first prize

taken by the Continental Navy. The capture of the *Edward* and its cargo turned Captain Barry into a national hero and boosted the morale of the Continental forces.

- Apr 07 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Shiloh ends – Two days of heavy fighting conclude near Pittsburgh Landing in western Tennessee. The Battle of Shiloh became a Union victory after the Confederate attack stalled on April 6, and fresh Yankee troops drove the Confederates from the field on April 7. Casualties and losses: US 13,047 – CSA 10,699.
- Apr 07 1918 – WWI: One month after Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, formally ending its participation in World War I, Winston Churchill secretly proposes to the British War Cabinet a method by which Britain's former ally could be persuaded to reenter the war.
- Apr 07 1939 – WW2: In an effort to mimic Hitler's conquest of Prague, Benito Mussolini's troops, though badly organized, invade and occupy Albania. Although the invasion was intended as but a prelude to greater conquests in the Balkans, it proved a costly enterprise for Il Duce (Mussolini). Albania was already dependent on Italy's economy, so had little to offer the invaders. And future exploits in neighboring nations, in Greece in particular, proved to be disastrous for the Italians.



Three Albanian soldiers in an unidentified location fleeing North with peasants towards Yugoslavia

- Apr 07 1943 – WW2: Holocaust: In Terebovlia, Ukraine, Germans order 1,100 Jews to undress to their underwear and march through the city of Terebovlia to the nearby village of Plebanivka. There they are shot dead.
- Apr 07 1945 – WW2: The Japanese battleship Yamato, the largest battleship ever constructed, is sunk 200 miles north of Okinawa while en-route to a suicide mission in Operation Ten-Go.
- Apr 07 1954 – Cold War: President Dwight D. Eisenhower coins one of the most famous Cold War phrases when he suggests the fall of French Indochina to the communists could create a “domino” effect in Southeast Asia. The so-called “domino theory” dominated U.S. thinking about Vietnam for the next decade.
- Apr 07 1975 – Cold War: Vietnam – North Vietnamese forces prepare to launch the “Ho Chi Minh Campaign,” designed to set the conditions for a final communist victory in South Vietnam. By this time, well over two-thirds of South Vietnam was under communist control as South Vietnamese forces had fallen back in panic when the North Vietnamese pressed the attack.
- Apr 07 1978 – Development of the neutron bomb is canceled by President Jimmy Carter.
- Apr 07 2003 – Gulf War: U.S. troops capture Baghdad; Saddam Hussein's regime falls two days later.
- Apr 08 1778 – American Revolution: Future United States President John Adams arrives in Paris, France 1778 to replace former Continental Congress member Silas Deane as a member of the American commission representing the interests of the United States. Deane had been recalled to America by Congress after fellow diplomat Arthur Lee accused him of misappropriating French funds.

- Apr 08 1832 – Black Hawk War: Around three-hundred United States 6th Infantry troops leave St. Louis, Missouri to fight the Sauk Native Americans.
- Apr 08 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Mansfield - The Red River campaign of Union General Nathaniel Banks grinds to a halt when Confederate General Richard Taylor routs Banks' army at Mansfield, Louisiana. Casualties and losses: US 2,117 - CSA 1,000.
- Apr 08 1904 – PreWWI: With war in Europe a decade away, Britain and France sign an agreement, later known as the Entente Cordiale, resolving long-standing colonial disputes in North Africa and establishing a diplomatic understanding between the two countries.
- Apr 08 1942 – WW2: The Japanese take Bataan in the Philippines.
- Apr 08 1942 – WW2: Siege of Leningrad - Soviet forces open a much-needed railway link to Leningrad.
- Apr 08 1944 – WW2: Russian forces led by Marshal Fedor Tolbukhin attack the German army in an attempt to win back Crimea, in the southern Ukraine, occupied by the Axis power. The attack would result in the breaking of German defensive lines in just four days, eventually sending the Germans retreating.
- Apr 08 1945 – WW2: After an air raid accidentally destroys a train carrying about 4,000 Nazi concentration camp internees in Prussian Hanover, the survivors are massacred by Nazis.
- Apr 08 1945 – WW2: Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer is hanged at Flossenbürg, only days before the American liberation of the POW camp. The last words of the brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were “This is the end—for me, the beginning of life.”



Bonhoeffer in 1939

- Apr 08 1950 – Cold War: Senator Joseph McCarthy labels Professor Owen Lattimore “extremely dangerous so far as the American people are concerned” in a carefully worded public speech, but stops short of calling him a Soviet spy. The speech was yet another example of McCarthy’s ability to whip up damaging Red Scare hysteria with no real evidence.
- Apr 08 1972 – Vietnam: North Vietnamese 2nd Division troops drive out of Laos and Cambodia to open a third front of their offensive in the Central Highlands, attacking at Kontum and Pleiku in attempt to cut South Vietnam in two. If successful, this would give North Vietnam control of the northern half of South Vietnam.
- Apr 08 1975 – Vietnam: After a weeklong mission to South Vietnam, Gen. Frederick Weyand, U.S. Army Chief of Staff and former Vietnam commander, reports to Congress that South Vietnam cannot survive without additional military aid. Questioned again later by reporters who asked if South Vietnam could survive with additional aid, Weyand replied there was “a chance.”

- Apr 09 1782 – American Revolution: 4 day Battle of the Saintes begins. Casualties and losses: Brit 1,059 - FR 8,000 *Est.*
- Apr 09 1865 – Civil War: Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia (26,765 troops) to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, effectively ending the war.



- Apr 09 1916 – WWI: The Battle of Verdun - German forces launch their third offensive of the battle.
- Apr 09 1917 – WWI: The Battle of Arras - the battle begins with Canadian Corps executing a massive assault on Vimy Ridge.
- Apr 09 1918 – WWI: The Battle of the Lys - German troops launch “Operation Georgette” the second phase of their final, last-ditch spring offensive, against Allied positions in Armentieres, France, on the River Lys. In the offensive the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps is crushed on the Belgian region of Flanders.



- Apr 09 1940 – WW2: Operation Weserübung - Germany invades Denmark and Norway. German warships entered major Norwegian ports, from Narvik to Oslo, deploying thousands of German troops and occupying Norway. At the same time, German forces occupy Copenhagen, among other Danish cities. German forces were able to slip through the mines Britain had laid around Norwegian ports because local garrisons were ordered to allow the Germans to land unopposed.
- Apr 09 1942 – WW2: The Japanese Navy launches an air raid on Trincomalee in Ceylon (Sri Lanka); Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Hermes and Royal Australian Navy Destroyer HMAS Vampire are sunk off the island's east coast.
- Apr 09 1942 – WW2: The Battle of Bataan/Bataan Death March – Major General Edward P. King Jr. surrenders at Bataan, Philippines—against General Douglas MacArthur’s orders—and 78,000 troops (66,000 Filipinos and 12,000 Americans), the largest contingent of U.S. soldiers ever to surrender, are taken captive by the Japanese. The prisoners were at once led 55 miles from Mariveles, on the southern end of the Bataan peninsula, to San Fernando, on what became known as the “Bataan Death March.”

- Apr 09 1945 – WW2: USS Snook (SS–279) missing. Most likely sunk by a combination of Japanese naval aircraft in the Nansei Soto. 84 killed.
- Apr 09 1945 – WW2: The German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer is sunk.
- Apr 09 1945 – WW2: The Battle of Königsberg, in East Prussia, ends. Casualties and losses: Ger 50K + 80K taken POW – SU 3,700
- Apr 09 1981 – The U.S. Navy nuclear submarine USS George Washington (SSBN–598) accidentally collides with the Nissho Maru, a Japanese cargo ship, sinking it.
- Apr 09 1987 – Cold War: Just days before he is to travel to Moscow for talks on arms control and other issues, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz states that he is “damned angry” about possible Soviet spy activity in the American embassy in the Soviet Union. Soviet officials indignantly replied that the espionage charges were “dirty fabrications.” The episode indicated that while relations between the United States and the Soviet Union had improved dramatically in recent years, long-held animosities and suspicions lingered just beneath the surface.
- Apr 10 1778 – American Revolution: Commander John Paul Jones and his crew of 140 men aboard the USS Ranger set sail from the naval port at Brest, France, and head toward the Irish Sea to begin raids on British warships. This was the first mission of its kind during the Revolutionary War.
- Apr 10 1865 – Civil War: A day after his surrender to Union forces, Confederate General Robert E. Lee addresses his troops for the last time.
- Apr 10 1918 – Civil War: The Congress of Oppressed Nationalities, convened in Rome, Italy, during the second week of April 1918, closes after representatives from the Czechoslovak, South Slav (or Yugoslav), Romanian and Polish National Committees proclaim their right to become “completely independent national States” after World War I ends.
- Apr 10 1941 – WW2: The German and Italian invaders of Yugoslavia set up the Independent State of Croatia (also including Bosnia and Herzegovina) and place nationalist leader Ante Pavelic’s Ustase, pro-fascist insurgents, in control of what is no more than a puppet Axis regime.
- Apr 10 1942 – WW2: Bataan Peninsula, Luzon, Philippines – After more than three months of determined resistance, American and Filipino forces are compelled by hunger, disease and lack of supplies to surrender to the Japanese army. Among these units are the survivors of two Guard tank battalions, the 192nd from Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio and Wisconsin, and the 194th from Minnesota and Missouri, as well as the 200th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) from New Mexico. These men were subjected to the Bataan Death March with the survivors spending the next three years in captivity.
- Apr 10 1963 – USS Thresher (SSN–593) sank after a possible piping failure during deep submergence tests off New England coast. 129 died.

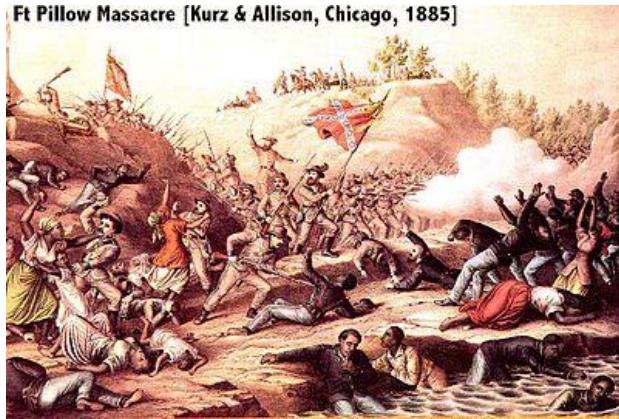


- Apr 10 1970 – Vietnam: A Gallup Poll shows that 48 percent of the public approves of President Nixon's policy in Vietnam, while 41 percent disapprove. In January, Nixon had a 65 percent approval rating. The drop reflected the growing dissatisfaction with Nixon's failure to end the war in Vietnam. He had been elected in 1968 largely because he claimed to have a plan to end the war, but after three months in office, there was still no announcement about when the plan would be enacted.
- Apr 10 1971 – Cold War: The U.S. table tennis team begins a weeklong visit to the People's Republic of China (PRC) at the invitation of China's communist government. The well-publicized trip was part of the PRC's attempt to build closer diplomatic relations with the United States, and was the beginning of what some pundits in the United States referred to as "ping-pong diplomacy."
- Apr 10 1972 – Vietnam: For the first time since NOV 67, American B-52 bombers reportedly begin bombing North Vietnam.
- Apr 11 1945 – WW2: American forces liberate the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.



German civilians are forced by American troops to bear witness to Nazi atrocities at Buchenwald concentration camp, mere miles from their own homes, April 1945.

- Apr 11 1951 – Korea: President Harry Truman relieves General of the Army Douglas MacArthur of overall command in Korea.
- Apr 12 1861 – Civil War: The war begins with Confederate forces firing on Fort Sumter, in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina.
- Apr 12 1862 – Civil War: The Andrews Raid (the Great Locomotive Chase) occurred, starting from Big Shanty, Georgia (now Kennesaw). Some of Andrews' raiders were the first to be awarded the Medal of Honor by the US Congress for their actions
- Apr 12 1864 – Civil War: Battle (Massacre) of Fort Pillow: Confederate forces kill the majority of the African American soldiers and many of the white soldiers that surrendered at Fort Pillow, Tennessee. Casualties and losses: US 574 - CSA 100.



1885 color poster of the "Fort Pillow Massacre".

- Apr 12 1865 – Civil War: Mobile, Alabama, falls to the Union Army.
- Apr 12 1917 – WWI: Canadian forces successfully complete the taking of Vimy Ridge from the Germans.
- Apr 12 1970 – Soviet submarine K-8, carrying four nuclear torpedoes, sinks in the Bay of Biscay four days after a fire on board.
- Apr 13 1776 – Revolutionary War: American forces are surprised in the [Battle of Bound Brook, New Jersey](#). During the battle, most of the 500-man garrison escaped. Casualties and losses: US 40 to 120 - GB 7.
- Apr 13 1861 – Civil War: Fort Sumter surrenders to Confederate forces. Casualties and losses: US 2 - CSA 0
- Apr 13 1972 – Vietnam: The Battle of An Loc begins
- Apr 14 1918 – WWI: Douglas Campbell becomes the first U.S. ace pilot when he shoots down of his 5th German plane.



Douglas Campbell '13 with his plane

- Apr 14 1941 – WW2: German general Erwin Rommel attacks Tobruk. The siege diverted Axis troops from the frontier and the Tobruk garrison repulsed several attacks. The port was frequently bombarded by artillery, dive-bombers and medium bombers, as the RAF flew defensive sorties from airfields in Egypt. British Mediterranean Fleet and Inshore Squadron ships ran the blockade, to carry reinforcements and supplies in and wounded and prisoners out. On 27 November, Tobruk was relieved by the 8th Army (the name of British, Commonwealth, Imperial and Allied forces in the Western Desert since September 1941), during Operation Crusader.



Australian troops (left) occupy a front line position at Tobruk. Field Marshal Erwin Rommel in 1942

- Apr 14 1945 – WW2: US 7th Army & allies forces captured Nuremberg & Stuttgart in Germany.
- Apr 14 1994 – In a U.S. friendly fire incident during Operation Provide Comfort in northern Iraq, two United States Air Force aircraft mistakenly shoot-down two United States Army helicopters, killing 26 people.
- Apr 14 2003 – U.S. troops in Baghdad capture Abu Abbas, leader of the Palestinian group that killed an American on the hijacked cruise liner the MS Achille Lauro in 1985.
- Apr 15 1783 – American Revolution: Preliminary articles of peace ending the American Revolutionary War (or American War of Independence) are ratified.
- Apr 15 1861 – Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln calls for 75,000 Volunteers to quell the insurrection that soon became the American Civil War.
- Apr 15 1900 – Philippine-American War: Filipino guerrillas launch a surprise attack on U.S. infantry and begin a four-day siege of Catubig, Philippines.
- Apr 15 1940 – WW2: The Allies begin their attack on the Norwegian town of Narvik which is occupied by Nazi Germany.
- Apr 15 1941 – WW2: In the Belfast Blitz, two-hundred bombers of the German Luftwaffe attack Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom killing one thousand people.
- Apr 15 1945 – WW2: The Bergen-Belsen concentration camp is liberated.
- Apr 15 1952 – The maiden flight of the B-52 Stratofortress



- Apr 15 1969 – Korea: The EC-121 shootdown incident: North Korea shoots down a United States Navy aircraft over the Sea of Japan, killing all 31 on board.
- Apr 15 1970 – During the Cambodian Civil War, massacres of the Vietnamese minority results in 800 bodies flowing down the Mekong River into South Vietnam.
- Apr 15 1986 – Libya: The United States launches Operation El Dorado Canyon, its bombing raids against Libyan targets in response to a bombing in West Germany that killed two U.S. servicemen.

[Source: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history> Mar 2017 ++]