



## Military History Anniversaries 16 thru 31 May

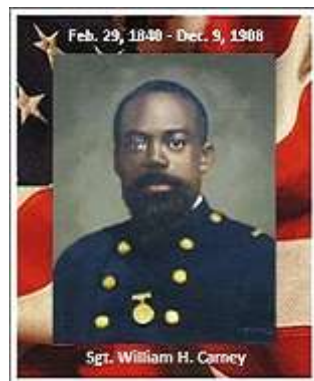
**Events in History over the next 15 day period that had U.S. military involvement or impacted in some way on U.S military operations or American security**

- May 16 1771 – The Battle of Alamance: Pre-American Revolutionary War battle between local militia and a group of rebels (The Regulators) occurs in present-day Alamance County, North Carolina. It was a protest against local taxation and corrupt government. Casualties and losses: Militia 9 to 27 killed + 61 wounded – Regulators 9 killed + 7 later executed for treason.
- May 16 1940 – WW2: Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium and begins invasion of France.
- May 16 1943 – The Holocaust: The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising ends. Casualties and losses: Ger 110 – Jews ~16,000 killed + 56,885 deported.
- May 17 1987 – An Iraqi missile hits the American frigate USS Stark in the Persian Gulf. 37 sailors die.
- May 17 2006 – The aircraft carrier USS Oriskany is sunk in the Gulf of Mexico as an artificial reef.
- May 18 1863 – Civil War: The 47 day Siege of Vicksburg begins. Casualties and losses: US 4,835 - CSA 32,697.
- May 18 1917 – WWI: The Selective Service Act of 1917 is passed, giving the President of the United States the power of conscription.
- May 18 1944 – WW2: Battle of Monte Cassino – 122 day battle ends after seven days of the 4<sup>th</sup> battle as German paratroopers evacuate. Casualties and losses: Allies 55,000 - Axis ~20,000.
- May 18 1974 – India conducted its first nuclear test explosion at Pokhran, the first confirmed nuclear test by a nation outside the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.



- May 19 1776 – American Revolution: A Continental Army garrison surrenders in the Battle of The Cedars.
- May 19 1848 – Mexican\*American War: Mexico ratifies the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo thus ending the war and ceding California, Nevada, Utah and parts of four other modern-day U.S. states to the United States for US\$15 million.
- May 19 1951 – Korea: United Nations forces begin counter offensive in Korea.
- May 19 1967 – Vietnam: U.S. planes bomb Hanoi for the first time.
- May 20 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Ware Bottom Church – in the Virginia Bermuda Hundred Campaign, 10,000 troops fight in this Confederate victory. Combined casualties ~1500.
- May 20 1902 – Latin America Interventions: U.S. military occupation of Cuba (since Jan 1, 1899) ends.
- May 20 1940 – The Holocaust: The first prisoners arrive at a new concentration camp at Auschwitz.
- May 20 1941 – WW2: Battle of Crete - German paratroops invade Crete.
- May 20 1951 – Korea: U.S. Air Force Captain James Jabara becomes the first jet air ace in history.
- May 20 1956 – Cold War: Operation Redwing - The first United States airborne hydrogen bomb is dropped over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.
- May 20 1969 – Vietnam: US troop capture Hill 937/Hamburger Hill after 10 days of fighting. Casualties and losses: US 444 - NVN 678.
- May 21 1863 – Civil War: The Union Army succeeds in closing off the last escape route from Port Hudson, Louisiana, in preparation for the coming siege.
- May 21 1864 – Civil War: The 13 day Battle of Spotsylvania Court House ends. Casualties and losses: US 18,399 - CSA 13,421.
- May 21 1941 – First U.S. ship sunk by a German U-boat. SS Robin Moore crew and passengers allowed to man lifeboats by U-69 Commander before he torpedoed and shelled the ship. Event happened before U.S. entered into war with Germany.
- May 21 1951 – Korea: The U.S. Eighth Army counterattacks to drive the Communist Chinese and North Koreans out of South Korea.
- May 22 1863 – Civil War: Siege of Port Hudson – Union forces begin to lay siege to the Confederate-controlled Port Hudson, Louisiana.
- May 22 1864 – Civil War: After ten weeks, the Union Army's Red River Campaign ends with the Union unable to achieve any of its objectives. Casualties and losses: US 5,500 - CSA 4,300.
- May 22 1871 – Indian Wars: The U.S. Army issued an order for abandonment of Fort Kearny in Nebraska. The fort had been utilized mostly as a supply post, and not as defensive position in the Indian Wars.
- May 22 1939 – WW2: Germany and Italy sign the Pact of Steel. Generally, the Pact obliged Germany and Italy to aid the other country immediately, militarily or otherwise, in the event of war being declared, and to collaborate in military and wartime production
- May 22 1942 – WW2: Mexico enters World War II on the side of the Allies after German submarines attacked two Mexican oil tankers. Some 300,000 Mexican citizens went to the U.S. to work in factories that produced war supplies and to help in any way that would benefit the Allies.

- May 22 1942 – WW2: Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox enlists in the United States Marine Corps as a flight instructor.
- May 22 1944 – WW2: Anzio Beachhead, Italy - Allied forces, including elements of three National Guard divisions—the 34th (IA, MN, ND), 36th (TX) and 45th (AZ, CO, OK)—begin their final push to break out of the besieged positions just south of Rome for four months. The breakout would be completed on May 31, with the Allies entering Rome on June 5.
- May 22 1945 – WW2: Operation Paperclip - United States Army Major Robert B. Staver recommends that the U.S. evacuate German scientists and engineers to help in the development of rocket technology.
- May 22 1947 – Cold War: In an effort to fight the spread of Communism, U.S. President Harry S. Truman signs an act into law that will later be called the Truman Doctrine. The act grants \$400 million in military and economic aid to Turkey and Greece, each battling an internal Communist movement.
- May 22 1967 – Vietnam: Vinh Xuan massacre conducted by South Korean forces resulted in the deaths of at least 15 unarmed women and children, and old men who refused to leave their villages.
- May 22 1968 – Last radio message received from USS Scorpion (SSN-589). Declared lost 6 JUN. Cause not ascertainable; most probable inadvertent activation of battery of torpedo resulting in a possible "hot run" torpedo detonation off Azores. 99 died.
- May 23 1846 – Mexican\*American War: President Mariano Paredes of Mexico unofficially declares war on the United States.
- May 23 1900 – MOH: Civil War hero Sgt. William H. Carney becomes the first African American to receive the Medal of Honor, 37 years after the Battle of Fort Wagner.



- May 23 1939 – USS Squalus (SS-192) foundered in a test dive off Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 26 died. The remaining 33 were rescued the next day.
- May 23 1915 – WWI: Italy joins the Allies after they declare war on Austria-Hungary.
- May 23 1945 – WW2: Heinrich Himmler, the head of the Schutzstaffel, commits suicide while in Allied custody.
- May 23 1945 – WW2: The short lived Flensburg Government formed after the suicide of Adolf Hitler to rule Germany under Reichspräsident Karl Dönitz is dissolved when its members are captured and arrested by British forces at Flensburg in Northern Germany.

- May 24 1846 – Mexican\*American War: General Zachary Taylor captures Monterrey. Casualties and losses: US 450 - Mex 450.
- May 24 1861 – Civil War: Union troops occupy Alexandria, Virginia.
- May 24 1941 – WW2: In the Battle of the Atlantic, the German Battleship Bismarck sinks then-pride of the Royal Navy, HMS Hood, killing all but three of her 1,419 crewmen.



- May 25 1915 – WWI: Second Battle of Ypres ends with 105,000 casualties.
- May 25 1953 – First atomic cannon is fired in Nevada.
- May 26 1783 – American Revolution: A Great Jubilee Day held at North Stratford, Connecticut celebrated end of fighting in American Revolution.
- May 26 1865 – Civil War: Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of the Confederate Trans–Mississippi division, is the last general of the Confederate Army to surrender, at Galveston, Texas.
- May 26 1940 – WW2: The Siege of Calais ends with the surrender of the British and French garrison. Casualties and losses: Allies 4,000 – Ger 750 to 800.
- May 26 1940 – WW2: Battle of Dunkirk – In France, Allied forces begin a massive 9-day evacuation from Dunkirk, France. Casualties and losses: Allies 51,000 + 50,000 vehicles + 9 destroyers + 200 marine vassals + 177 aircraft – Ger 20 to 30,000 + 100 tanks + 240 aircraft.
- May 26 1942 – WW2: Battle of Gazala - Western Desert Rommel Campaign fought around the port of Tobruk. Casualties and losses: Allies ~50,000 + 1,188 tanks – Axis ~5,000 + 400 tanks.
- May 26 1945 – WW2: U.S. drop fire bombs on Tokyo.



**Tokyo burns under B-29 firebomb assault**

- May 26 1948 – The U.S. Congress passes Public Law 557, which permanently establishes the Civil Air Patrol as an auxiliary of the United States Air Force.
- May 26 2004 – The U.S. Army veteran Terry Nichols is found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the Oklahoma City bombing.
- May 27 1813 – War of 1812: In Canada, American forces capture Fort George.
- May 27 1863 – Civil War: First Assault on the Confederate works at the 48 day Siege of Port Hudson.
- May 27 1940 – WW2: In the Le Paradis massacre, 99 soldiers from a Royal Norfolk Regiment unit are shot after surrendering to German troops; two survive.
- May 27 1941 – WW2: The German battleship Bismarck is sunk in the North Atlantic killing almost 2,100 men.



- May 27 1942 – WW2: Operation Anthropoid - Reinhard Heydrich, one of the main architects of the Holocaust is fatally wounded in Prague; he dies of his injuries eight days later.



- May 27 1944 – WW2: American General MacArthur lands on Biak Island in New Guinea.
- May 27 1958 – The F-4 Phantom II makes its first flight.
- May 27 1965 – Vietnam: American warships begin the first bombardment of National Liberation Front targets within South Vietnam.
- May 27 1967 – The U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy is launched by Jacqueline Kennedy and her daughter Caroline.
- May 28 1754 – French and Indian War: In the first engagement of the war, Virginia militia under 22-year-old Lieutenant Colonel George Washington defeat a French reconnaissance party in the Battle of Jumonville Glen in what is now Fayette County in southwestern Pennsylvania.
- May 28 1940 – WW2: Belgium surrenders to Nazi Germany to end the Battle of Belgium.
- May 28 1940 – WW2: Norwegian, French, Polish and British forces recapture Narvik in Norway. This is the first allied infantry victory of the War.
- May 28 1942 – WW2: In retaliation for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, Nazis in Czechoslovakia kill over 1,800 people.

- May 29 1780 – American Revolution: At the Battle of Waxhaws the British continue fighting after the Continentals lay down their arms killing 113 and critically wounding all but 53 that remained.
- May 29 1916 – U.S. forces invade the Dominican Republic and stay until 1924.
- May 29 1931 – Michele Schirru, a citizen of the United States, is executed by Italian military firing squad for intent to kill Benito Mussolini.
- May 29 1932 – Some 43,000 veterans, their families, and supporters begin to assemble in Washington, D.C. in the Bonus Army to request immediate payment of cash bonus certificates issued to them for redemption in 1945.



- May 29 1940 – The first flight of the Vought F4U Corsair.
- May 29 1945 – WW2: U.S. 1st Marine division conquerors Shuri-castle Okinawa.
- May 29 1945 – First combat mission of the Consolidated B-32 Dominator heavy bomber.
- May 29 2004 – The National WW2 Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C.
- May 30 1868 – Decoration Day (the predecessor of the modern "Memorial Day") is observed in the United States for the first time (By "Commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic" John A. Logan's proclamation on May 5). It begins when two women place flowers on both Confederate and Union graves.
- May 30 1912 – First Nicaraguan Campaign: U.S. Marines are sent to Nicaragua to protect American interests.
- May 30 1958 – Memorial Day: The remains of two unidentified American servicemen, killed in action during World War II and the Korean War respectively, are buried at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.
- May 30 1965 – Vietnam: Viet Cong offensive against U.S. base Da Nang, begins.
- May 31 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Seven Pines begins.
- May 31 1900 – U.S. troops arrive in Peking to help put down the Boxer Rebellion.



**U.S. Marines - Part of the international relief expedition sent to lift the siege of Peking.**

- May 31 1912 – Cuban Pacification Campaign: U.S. Marines land on Cuba to help quell the Negro Rebellion

[Source: Various May 2016 ++]