



## Military History Anniversaries 16 thru 31 Oct

**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**

- Oct 16 1780 – American Revolution: Royalton, Vermont and Tunbridge, Vermont are the last major raids of the War.
- Oct 16 1781 – American Revolution: George Washington captures Yorktown, Virginia after the Siege of Yorktown.
- Oct 16 1813 – War of 1812: The United States defeats the British Fleet at the Battle of Lake Erie



- Oct 16 1821 – The schooner Enterprise, commanded by Lawrence Kearny, engages four pirate schooners and one pirate sloop off Cape Antonio, Cuba who are in the act of robbing two American vessels and one British ship. The pirate leader, Capt. Charles Gibbs, escapes to shore but his ship and two others were burned. The remaining ships are sent to Charleston, S.C. as prizes.
- Oct 16 1821 – Civil War: The Union screw steamer South Carolina captures the schooner Edward Barnard, with a cargo of turpentine on board, at Southwest Pass, Mississippi River.
- Oct 16 1859 – Abolitionist John Brown leads a small group on a raid against a federal armory in Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in an attempt to start an armed slave revolt and destroy the institution of slavery.

- Oct 16 1891 – Two sailors from the cruiser Baltimore are killed and 17 are injured by a mob in Valparaiso, Chile. The incident shifts relations between the United States and Chile. In 1892 Chile pays \$75,000 in gold for restitution and apologizes for the incident.
- Oct 16 1916 – WW1: At dawn Private Henry Farr of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) is executed for cowardice after he refused to go forward into the front-line trenches on the Western Front. Farr was one of 306 soldiers from Britain and the Commonwealth who were executed for cowardice during the Great War.
- Oct 16 1942 – WW2: USS Thresher (SS 200) mines the approaches to Bangkok, Thailand, the first US Navy submarine mine plant during the war.
- Oct 16 1943 – The Navy accepts its first helicopter, a Sikorsky YR-4B (HNS-1) at Bridgeport, Ct., following a 60-minute test flight by U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Frank A. Erickson.
- Oct 16 1944 – USS Tilefish (SS 307) sinks Japanese guard boat No.2 Kyowa Maru five miles north of Matsuwa Jima, Kuril Islands.
- Oct 16 1946 – Post WW2: At Nuremberg, Germany, 10 high-ranking Nazi officials are executed by hanging for their crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, and war crimes during World War II.
- Oct 16 1962 – Cold War: The Cuban missile crisis between the United States, Cuba, and the Soviet Union begins when US President John F. Kennedy is shown photographs of missile sites in Cuba.
- Oct 16 1964 – Cold War: The People's Republic of China joins the rank of nations with atomic bomb capability, after a successful nuclear test on this day. China is the fifth member of this exclusive club, joining the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France.
- Oct 16 1993 – USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) is commissioned at Pascagoula, Miss. The Navy's third Wasp-class amphibious assault ship is the fifth named for Mount Kearsarge in New Hampshire, although the fourth commissioned into the Navy. The name also honors the Union sloop-of-war Kearsarge of Civil War fame that sank CSS Alabama June 19, 1864 near Cherbourg Harbor, France. The ship is homeported at Norfolk, Va.

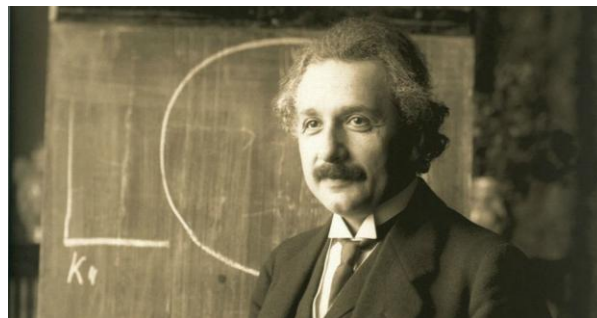
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- Oct 17 1777 – American Revolution: Battle of Saratoga - British general and playwright John Burgoyne surrenders 5,000 British and Hessian troops to American General Horatio Gates at Saratoga, New York. Burgoyne successfully negotiated that his surviving men would be returned to Britain by pledging that they would never again serve in North America. The nearly 6,000-man army was kept in captivity at great expense to the Continental Congress until the end of the war.



- Oct 17 1781 – American Revolution: British General Lord Charles Cornwallis surrenders at the Siege of Yorktown.

- Oct 17 1863 – Civil War: Sailors from the Union screw steam gunboat Tahoma and side-wheel steamer Adela board the blockade runners Scottish Chief and Kate Dale at Old Tampa Bay, Fla. and destroy them. During the battle, five of the landing party are killed, 10 are wounded and five are taken prisoner. This mission also diverts the real attention from the shelling of Tampa, Fla.
- Oct 17 1864 – Civil War: Confederate General James Longstreet assumes command of his corps in Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia in May of that year, Longstreet missed the campaign for Richmond, Virginia, and spent five months recovering before returning to his command.
- Oct 17 1918 – WW1: German submarine U-155 torpedoes and sinks the freighter S.S. Lucia in the Atlantic. Despite being rigged with buoyancy boxes to render her virtually unsinkable, a torpedo penetrates the engine room, killing two men and sinking her the next day. USS Fairfax (DD 93) rescues her crew and transfers them to armored cruiser No. 5 USS Huntington.
- Oct 17 1922 – The Vought VE-7SF, piloted by Lt. Cmdr. Virgil C. Griffin, makes the Navy’s first carrier takeoff from USS Langley (CV 1), anchored in York River, Va.
- Oct 17 1933 – PreWW2: Due to rising anti-Semitism and anti-intellectualism in Hitler’s Germany, Albert Einstein, the Nobel-prize-winning physicist, flees Nazi Germany and moves to the United States. He will become an American citizen in 1940 and on the eve of World War II warn President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the potential development of “extremely powerful bombs of a new type,” recommending that the United States begin similar research.



- Oct 17 1941 – PreWW2: Before the United States entry into World War II, German submarine U-568 torpedoes and damages USS Kearny (DD 432) near Iceland, killing 11 and injuring 22.
- Oct 17 1942 – WW2: USS Trigger (SS 237) sinks the Japanese freighter Holland Maru near the mouth of Bungo Strait off Kyushu, Japan. Lost in action with all hands later in the war, Trigger receives 11 battle stars for her World War II service and the Presidential Unit Citation for her fifth, sixth, and seventh war patrols.
- Oct 17 1943 – WW2: USS Tarpon (SS 175) sinks German auxiliary cruiser Michel (Schiffe No. 28) off Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands.
- Oct 17 1944 – WW2: USS Escolar (SS-294) missing. Possibly sunk by a Japanese mine in the Yellow Sea. 82 killed.
- Oct 17 1944 – WW2: Naval forces land Army rangers on islands at the entrance to Leyte Gulf in preparation for landing operations on Leyte Island.
- Oct 17 1944 – WW2: The government of Prince Fumimaro Konoye, prime minister of Japan, collapses, leaving little hope for peace in the Pacific.
- Oct 17 1986 – Cold War: In a short-lived victory for the Nicaraguan policy of the Reagan administration, the President signs into law an act of Congress approving \$100 million of military and “humanitarian” aid for the Contras. Unfortunately for Ronald Reagan and his advisors, the Iran-Contra scandal is just about to break wide open, seriously compromising their goal of overthrowing the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

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- Oct 18 1775 – American Revolution: The Burning of Falmouth (now Portland, Maine) prompts the Continental Congress to establish the Continental Navy.
- Oct 18 1779 – American Revolution: The Franco-American Siege of Savannah is lifted.
- Oct 18 1812 – War of 1812: The sloop-of-war Wasp, commanded by Master Commandant Jacob Jones, captures HMS Frolic. After a severe engagement of 43 minutes, both vessels are dismasted. HMS Poitiers appears shortly thereafter and Wasp has to surrender as it can neither run nor hope to fight such an overwhelming opponent as the 74-gun ship-of-the-line. Wasp serves the British as HMS Peacock until it is lost off the Virginia Capes in 1813.
- Oct 18 1867 – The sloop-of-war Ossipee and the third-class screw steamer Resaca participate in formal transfer of Alaska from Russia to U.S. authority at Sitka and remain to enforce law and order in the new territory.
- Oct 18 1898 – Spanish American War: In July 1898 U.S. forces launched an invasion of Puerto Rico. With little resistance and only seven American deaths, U.S. troops were able to secure the island by mid August. After the signing of an armistice with Spain, the island was turned over to the U.S forces on October 18. Only one year after Spain granted Puerto Rico self-rule, American troops raised the U.S. flag over the Caribbean nation, formalizing U.S. authority over the island's one million inhabitants.
- Oct 18 1939 – PreWW2: President Franklin D. Roosevelt bans war submarines from U.S. ports and waters.
- Oct 18 1942 – WW2: Vice. Adm. William F. Halsey replaces Vice Adm. Robert L. Ghormley as commander, South Pacific. Brilliant work in the capture of the Solomon Islands and New Guineas led to Halsey's promotion to full admiral
- Oct 18 1944 – WW2: USS Bluegill (SS 242) and USS Raton (SS 270) attack a Japanese convoy in the South China Sea. Bluegill sinks the army cargo ships Arabia Maru and Chinsei Maru and freighter Hakushika Maru. Raton sinks the army cargo ships Taikai Maru and Shiranesan Maru.
- Oct 18 1977 – USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) is commissioned at Norfolk, Va. The Ike, named after the nation's 34th president, is the third nuclear-powered and second Nimitz-class aircraft carrier. Ike is currently homeported in Norfolk.
- Oct 18 2003 – USS Chafee (DDG 90) is commissioned at Newport, R.I. The first U.S. Navy ship named to honor John Hubbard Chafee, the late Senator from Rhode Island, who also served as Secretary of the Navy under President Nixon.

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- Oct 19 1781 – American Revolution: At Yorktown, Virginia, representatives of British commander Lord Cornwallis handed over Cornwallis' sword and formally surrendered his army of some 8,000 men to George Washington and the comte de Rochambeau effectively ending the American Revolution. Although the war persisted on the high seas and in other theaters, the Patriot victory at Yorktown effectively ended fighting in the American colonies.
- Oct 19 1843 – While commanding the first screw propelled U.S. naval steamer Princeton, Capt. Robert F. Stockton challenges the British merchant ship Great Western to a speed race off New York. Princeton easily wins the race.
- Oct 19 1864 - The steamer Mobile captures schooner Emily off San Luis Pass, Texas with a cargo of 150 bales of cotton.
- Oct 19 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Cedar Creek - Union General Philip Sheridan averts a near disaster in the Shenandoah Valley when he rallies his troops after a surprise attack by Confederate General Jubal Early and scores a major victory that almost destroys Early's army at the Battle of Cedar Creek in Virginia. Casualties and losses: US 5,764 - CSA 2,910.



- Oct 19 1914 – WWI: First Battle of Ypres - Near the Belgian city of Ypres, Allied and German forces begin the first of what would be three battles to control the city and its advantageous positions on the north coast of Belgium during the First World War. The First Battle ended 36 days later.
- Oct 19 1915 - The Naval Submarine Base at New London, Conn. is established.
- Oct 19 1917 – WWI: The first doughnut is fried by Salvation Army volunteer women for American troops in France.
- Oct 19 1933 – Germany withdraws from the League of Nations.
- Oct 19 1942 – WW2: The Japanese submarine I-36 launches a floatplane for a reconnaissance flight over Pearl Harbor. The pilot and crew report on the ships in the harbor, after which the aircraft is lost at sea.
- Oct 19 1944 – WW2: USS Gilligan (DE 508) bombards Mili Atoll, Marshall.
- Oct 19 1944 – WW2: United States forces land in the Philippines.
- Oct 19 1944 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt approves Secretary of Navy James V. Forrestal's order for African American women to be accepted into the Naval Reserve.
- Oct 19 1950 – Korea: The People's Liberation Army takes control of the town of Qamdo. This is sometimes called the "Invasion of Tibet".
- Oct 19 1950 – Korea: The People's Republic of China joins the Korean War by sending thousands of troops across the Yalu river to fight United Nations forces.
- Oct 19 1950 – Vietnam: North Vietnamese troops launch a major assault on U.S. and South Vietnamese Special Forces Camp at Plei Me in the Central Highlands, 215 miles north of Saigon. During a week of savage fighting, defenders of the besieged outpost, manned by 12 U.S. Green Berets, 400 Montagnard tribesmen, and a handful of South Vietnamese guerrilla specialists, repelled repeated Viet Cong attacks. The tide of the battle turned finally with the arrival of several hundred South Vietnamese reinforcements and numerous Allied air strikes.
- Oct 19 1987 – U.S. Navy destroyers destroy two Iranian oil-drilling platforms in the Persian Gulf during Operation Nimble Archer. This action was in response to the Iranian Silkworm Missile that hit MV Sea Isle City, which was under the protection of Operation Earnest Will.
- Oct 19 2005 –Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity.

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- Oct 20 1864 – Civil War: A boat expedition under Acting Master George E. Hill, with the screw steam gunboat Stars and Stripes, ascends the Ochlockonee River in Western Florida and destroys an extensive Confederate fishery on Marshs Island, capturing a detachment of soldiers assigned to guard the works.
- Oct 20 1923 – USS O-5 (SS-66) rammed and sunk by United Fruit steamer Abangarez in Limon Bay, Canal Zone. 3 died.
- Oct 20 1941 – WW2: USS Hornet (CV 8) is commissioned. During World War II, she participates in the Doolittle Raid on Japan, the Battle of Midway, and the Solomon Campaign. On Oct. 26, 1942, at the Battle of Santa Cruz Islands, Hornet is severely damaged by the Japanese enemy and abandoned.

Though U.S. destroyers attempt to scuttle her, Hornet remained afloat and was sunk by Japanese destroyers early the next morning.

- Oct 20 1941 – WW2: German troops reach the approaches to Moscow.
- Oct 20 1943 – WW2: Torpedo bombers (TBF Avengers) from Composite Squadron (VC) 13, then based on board the escort carrier USS Core (CVE 13), sink the German submarine U-378 north of the Azores.
- Oct 20 1943 – WW2: The cargo vessel Sinfra is attacked by US Army Air Force F B–25s and RAF Beaufighters aircraft at Suda Bay, Crete, and sunk. 2,098 Italian prisoners of war are drowned.
- Oct 20 1944 – WW2: The U.S. Navy lands four Sixth Army divisions ashore on Leyte. Japanese aerial counter-attacks damage escort carrier Sangamon and a few other ships, but do not hinder the landings. Later in the day, Gen. Douglas MacArthur wades ashore and gives his "I have returned" radio message to the Philippine people. If Leyte is lost, the rest of the Philippines will soon follow, so the Japanese prepare to send five strong naval forces to drive off the American fleet and add more troops for the land fighting. In the following days, this response will lead to World War II's biggest and most complex sea fight, the multi-pronged Battle of Leyte Gulf.
- Oct 20 1944 – WW2: Battle of Leyte Gulf began. Largest naval battle of the war.
- Oct 20 1947– Cold War: Red Scare Comes to Hollywood - The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) of the U.S. Congress opens its investigation into communist infiltration of the American movie industry. Chaired by Congressman Parnell Thomas, the subsequent hearings focused on identifying political subversives among Hollywood actors and actresses, writers, and directors.

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- Oct 21 1797 – The 44-gun frigate Constitution launches at Edmund Hartts Shipyard, Boston, Mass. The ship is now the oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy.



- Oct 21 1854 – Florence Nightingale and a staff of 38 nurses are sent to the Crimean War.
- Oct 21 1862 – Civil War: The Cairo class ironclad river gunboat Louisville, under the command of Lt. Cmdr. R.W. Meade III, escorts the steamer Meteor, whose embarked Army troops landed at Bledsoes Landing and Hamblins Landing, Ark. The towns are burned in reprisal for attacks by Confederate guerrillas on mail steamer Gladiator early in the morning of Oct. 19.
- Oct 21 1864 – Civil War: The wooden side-wheel cruiser Fort Jackson captures steamer Wando at sea, east of Cape Romain, S.C., with cargo of cotton.
- Oct 21 1837 – Under a flag of truce during peace talks, U.S. troops siege the Indian Seminole Chief Osceola in Florida.
- Oct 21 1861 – Civil War: The Battle of Ball's Bluff, Virginia begins, a disastrous Union defeat which sparks Congressional investigations. Casualties and losses: US 921 - CSA 155.
- Oct 21 1904 – Panamanians clash with U.S. Marines in Panama in a brief uprising.
- Oct 21 1917 – WWI: The first U.S. troops enter the front lines at Sommerviller under French command.

- Oct 21 1917 – WWI: A German U-boat submarine in the Irish Sea fires the last torpedo of World War I sinking a small British merchant ship, the Saint Barcham, and drowning its eight crewmen. Admiral Reinhardt Scheer dealt the final blow to Germany’s U-boat strategy, ordering all his navy’s submarines to return to their German bases thus ending Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.
- Oct 21 1941 – WW2: German soldiers go on a rampage, killing thousands of Yugoslavian civilians, including whole classes of schoolboys. In Kragujevac, 2,300 men and boys were murdered; Kraljevo saw 7,000 more, and in the region of Macva, 6,000 men, women, and children were murdered. “The people just do not recognize authority...they follow the Communist bandits blindly,” complained one German official reporting back to Berlin.
- Oct 21 1942 – WW2: The British submarine HMS Seraph lands Navy Capt. Jerauld Wright and four Army officers including Maj. Gen. Mark Clark at Cherchel, French North Africa to meet with a French military delegation to assess French attitude towards future Allied landings (Operation Torch). Eventually, the French agreed to the mission.
- Oct 21 1942 – WW2: USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks Japanese freighter Nichiho Maru about 120 miles north-northeast of Formosa while USS Gudgeon (SS 211) attacks a Japanese convoy in the Bismarck Sea and sinks the transport Choko Maru.
- Oct 21 1944 - WW2: Battle of Aachen: After 19 days of fighting the city of Aachen falls to American forces making it the first German city to fall to the Allies. Casualties and losses: US ~5,000 - GER 10,600.



- Oct 21 1944 – WW2: The first kamikaze attack: A Japanese plane carrying a 200 kilograms (440 lb) bomb attacks HMAS Australia off Leyte Island, as the Battle of Leyte Gulf began.
- Oct 21 1952 –Korea: USS Lewis (DE 535) aids two Korean minesweepers under fire at Wonson Harbor. As she approaches, at least four enemy batteries open up on the destroyer escort. Lewis returns fire and lays down a smoke screen to cover the minesweepers retreat. Shortly thereafter the destroyer escort takes two 75mm shell hits, killing six crewmen outright and mortally wounding a seventh. The second hit explodes on the main deck, port side, lightly wounding one sailor.
- Oct 21 1967 – Vietnam War: March on the Pentagon - A peaceful rally 50 to 100,000 protesters at the Lincoln Memorial is followed by a march to The Pentagon and clashes with soldiers and United States Marshals protecting the facility. Similar demonstrations occurred simultaneously in Japan and Western Europe.
- Oct 21 1983 – Grenada: The United States sends a ten-ship task force to Grenada.
- Oct 21 1994 – Korea and the U.S. sign an agreement that requires North Korea to stop its nuclear weapons program and agree to inspections.

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- Oct 22 1777 – American Revolution: American defenders of Fort Mercer on the Delaware River repulse repeated Hessian attacks in the Battle of Red Bank. Casualties and losses: US 37 - Hessian 330.
- Oct 22 1790 – Northwest Indian War: Warriors of the Miami tribe under Chief Little Turtle defeat United States troops under General Josiah Harmar at the site of present-day Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- Oct 22 1846 – Lavinia Fanning Watson of Philadelphia christens the sloop-of-war Germantown, the first U.S. Navy ship to be sponsored by a woman.
- Oct 22 1862 – The screw frigate Wabash provides artillery support for Union infantry troops at the Battle of Pocotaligo, S.C. One of the gun crew, who was seriously injured, was Ordinary Seaman Oscar W. Farenholt, the first enlisted man in the Navy to reach flag rank. The battery from Wabash took part in artillery operations all along the South Atlantic coast.
- Oct 22 1862 – Civil War: Union troops push 5,000 confederates out of Maysville, Ark., at the Second Battle of Pea Ridge.
- Oct 22 1942 – The destroyers USS Mahan (DD 364) and USS Lamson (DD 367) sink the Japanese gunboat Hakkaisan Maru southwest of Tamana.
- Oct 22 1942 – WW2: American Maj. Gen. Mark Clark meets in Algeria with French officials loyal to the Allied cause, as well as Resistance fighters, regarding the launch of Operation Torch, the first Allied amphibious landing of the war. The meeting was interrupted at one point by the arrival of French police loyal to the Vichy government. Clark and company had to hide out in a nearby wine cellar. The conference resumed the next day—and plans for bringing the “Torch” of freedom to French North Africa took final shape.
- Oct 22 1944 – WW2: Battle of Aachen: The city of Aachen falls to American forces after three weeks of fighting, making it the first German city to fall to the Allies. Casualties and losses: US 5000 - Ger 10,600.
- Oct 22 1951 – Cold War: In the Operation Buster-Jangle nuclear tests the first detonation, Able, takes place. Uncle, the last of the seven tests is detonated 29 NOV. Navy and Marine Corps observers and 3rd Marines take part in this Department of Defense operation.
- Oct 22 1957 – Vietnam: First United States casualties in Vietnam War era. Prior to that Albert Peter Dewey, who was shot by accident by Viet Minh troops on 26 SEP 1945, was the first American fatality in French Indochina, killed in the early aftermath of World War II. This era is often confused with the Vietnam War.
- Oct 22 1962 – Cold War: Cuban Missile Crisis - US President John F. Kennedy, after internal counsel from Dwight D. Eisenhower, announces that American reconnaissance planes have discovered Soviet nuclear weapons in Cuba, and that he has ordered a naval "quarantine" (i.e. blockade) of the Communist nation. By forcefully employing U.S. naval forces, President John F. Kennedy is able to achieve his strategic objectives and deal with a dangerous and well-armed Soviet Union without war.





- Oct 22 1972 – Vietnam: In Saigon, Henry Kissinger meets with South Vietnamese President Thieu to secure his approval of a proposed cease-fire that had been worked out at the secret peace talks with the North Vietnamese in Paris. The proposal presumed a postwar role for the Viet Cong and Thieu rejected the proposed accord point for point and accused the United States of conspiring with China and the Soviet Union to undermine his regime.
- Oct 22 1972 – Vietnam: Operation Linebacker I, the bombing of North Vietnam with B-52 bombers, ends.
- Oct 22 1975 – Air Force Sergeant Leonard Matlovich, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, is given a “general” discharge by the air force after publicly declaring his homosexuality. Matlovich, who appeared in his air force uniform on the cover of Time magazine above the headline “I AM A HOMOSEXUAL,” was challenging the ban against homosexuals in the U.S. military.

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- Oct 23 1694 – American colonial forces, led by Sir William Phipps, fail to seize Quebec.
- Oct 23 1777 – American Revolution: A British Royal Navy fleet of ships, trying to open up supply lines along the Delaware River and the occupying British army in Philadelphia, is bombarded by American cannon fire and artillery from Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Six British ships were severely damaged, including the 64-gun battleship HMS *Augusta* and the 20-gun sloop *Merlin*, which both suffered direct hits before they were run aground and subsequently destroyed
- Oct 23 1861 – Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus in Washington, D.C. for all military-related cases.
- Oct 23 1862 - Civil War: CSS *Alabama*, commanded by Capt. Raphael Semmes, captures and burns the American bark *Lafayette* south of Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Oct 23 1864 - Civil War: The blockade-runner *Flamingo*, which is run aground off Sullivan's Island, S.C., is destroyed by shell fire from Fort Strong and Putnam, Battery Chatfield, and ships of Rear Adm. John A. Dahlgren's South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.
- Oct 23 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Westport – Union forces under Gen. Samuel R. Curtis defeat Confederate troops led by Gen. Sterling Price at Westport, near Kansas City. Casualties and losses: US 1,500 - CSA 1,500.



- Oct 23 1941 – WW2: Chief of the Soviet general staff, Georgi K. Zhukov, assumes command of Red Army operations to stop the German advance into the heart of Russia. Stalin’s wise choice in handing so much power and responsibility to this one man was regretted only after the war, when Zhukov’s popularity threatened his own.
- Oct 23 1942 – WW2: The Battle for Henderson Field begins during the Guadalcanal Campaign and lasts on 26 OCT.
- Oct 23 1942 – WW2: The Western Task Force, destined for North Africa, departs from Hampton Roads, Virginia with 100 naval vessels. The first ever transoceanic amphibious operation.

- Oct 23 1942 - WW2: USS Kingfish (SS 234) sinks Japanese gunboat at the entrance to Kii Suido, Honshu, Japan.
- Oct 23 1944 – WW2: Battle of Leyte Gulf – considered the largest naval battle of World War II, begins with the U.S. submarines attacking two elements of the Japanese armada moving towards Leyte. In the Palawan Passage, USS Darter and USS Dace sink heavy cruisers Maya and Atago. Takao is also hit, but survives. Off Manila Bay, USS Bream's torpedoes damage the heavy cruiser.
- Oct 23 1965 – Vietnam: The 1st Air Cavalry Division launches Operation Silver Bayonet seeking to destroy North Vietnamese forces in Pleiku in the Central Highlands.
- Oct 23 1972 – Vietnam: Citing difficulties with South Vietnamese President Thieu, U.S. negotiators cable Hanoi requesting further negotiations in Paris over the proposed draft peace accord. Thieu felt that he was being sold out by the United States to secure a peace agreement at any terms.
- Oct 23 1972 – Vietnam: Operation Linebacker I - U.S. Seventh Air Force and U.S. Navy TF 77 air interdiction campaign conducted against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) since 9 May is stopped by President Nixon for the Paris Peace Talks. Bombing subsequently resumed as Linebacker II from 18 to 29 DEC.
- Oct 23 1983 – Lebanon: Terrorist suicide truck bomb attack on Marine Barracks in Beirut kills 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and three Army Soldiers.



- Oct 23 1983 – The U.S. Navy begins preparation for Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada, West Indies), which occurs only two days later.

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- Oct 24 1775 – American Revolution: Virginia's last royal governor, Lord John Murray Dunmore, orders a British naval fleet of six ships to sail up the James River and into Hampton Creek to attack Patriot troops and destroy the town of Norfolk, Virginia. British Captain Matthew Squire led the six ships into Hampton Creek and began bombarding the town with artillery and cannon fire, while a second contingent of British troops sailed ashore to begin engaging the Patriots. The Patriots and militia pushed the British back to their ships, where the riflemen picked off British troops from the decks of their vessels. Facing a humiliating defeat at the hands of an outnumbered local militia, Captain Squire ordered a full British retreat.
- Oct 24 1862 – Civil War: A landing party from stern wheel casemate gunboat Baron de Kalb, commanded by Capt. J.A. Winslow, lands at Hopefield, Ark., and engages a small Confederate scouting party. On mounted horses, the sailors then engage in a nine mile running fight, ending with the capture of the Confederate party.
- Oct 24 1862 – Civil War: Union General Don Carlos Buell is replaced because of his ineffective pursuit of the Confederates after the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky, on October 8. He was replaced by

William Rosecrans, who had distinguished himself in western Virginia in 1861 and provided effective leadership at the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, just prior to Perryville.

- Oct 24 1863 – Civil War: General Ulysses S. Grant arrives in Chattanooga, Tennessee to find the Union Army there starving.
- Oct 24 1921 – Post WW1: In the French town of Chalons-sur-Marne, an American officer selects the body of the first “Unknown Soldier” to be honored among the approximately 77,000 United States servicemen killed on the Western Front during World War I.
- Oct 24 1944 – WW2: The Battle of Leyte Gulf continues, with Task Force 38 aircraft attacking the Japanese in the Sibuyan and Sulu Seas. U.S. Navy carrier planes sink the Japanese battleship Musashi and damage numerous other enemy ships, among them battleships Yamato, Nagato, Fuso and Yamashiro. Japanese air attacks hit the small USS Princeton (CVL 23), which eventually has to be scuttled. The desperate kamikaze tactic makes its appearance, causing damage and casualties on U.S. ships off the Leyte invasion beaches.
- Oct 24 1944 – WW2: USS Shark (SS 314) is lost in the vicinity of Luzon Strait while participating in a coordinated attack by Task Group 17.15 with USS Seadragon (SS 194) and USS Blackfish (SS 221). Also, USS Richard M. Rowell (DD 403) sinks Japanese submarine I-54, 70 miles east of Surigao, and USS Tang (SS 306) is lost when she runs into her own torpedoes.
- Oct 24 1944 – WW2: USS Woolsey (DD 437) and British destroyer HMS Fortune sink two German explosive boats 16 miles off Cap Ferrat, France. Woolsey and minesweeper USS Sway (AM 120) then recover the prisoners.
- Oct 24 1944 – WW2: The USS Tang (SS-306) under Richard O’Kane (the top American submarine captain of World War II) is sunk by the ship’s own malfunctioning torpedo during a surface night attack 24–25 OCT. 78 died, 9 POWs survived
- Oct 24 1944 – WW2: USS Darter (SS-227) ran aground on Bombay Shoal, Palawan Passage; later scuttled by USS Nautilus (SS-168) and USS Dace (SS-247).
- Oct 24 1944 – WW2: USS Shark (SS-314) sunk by Japanese depth charges from Harukaze, South China Sea west of Luzon. 87 killed.
- Oct 24 1945 – Post WW2: Less than two months after the end of World War II, the United Nations is formally established with the ratification of the United Nations Charter by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of other signatories. The United Nations was born of perceived necessity, as a means of better arbitrating international conflict and negotiating peace than was provided for by the old League of Nations.
- Oct 24 1951 – Post WW2: President Harry Truman finally proclaims that the nation’s war with Germany, begun in 1941, is officially over. Fighting had ended in the spring of 1945.
- Oct 24 1954 – Vietnam: Dwight D. Eisenhower pledges United States support to South Vietnam
- Oct 24 1958 – USS Kleinsmith (APD 134) rescues 56 U.S. citizens and three foreign nationals at Nicaro, Cuba, where they are endangered by military operations between the Cuban Army and the Castro rebels.
- Oct 24 1966 – Vietnam: In Manila, President Johnson meets with other Allied leaders and they pledge to withdraw troops from Vietnam within six months if North Vietnam “withdraws its forces to the North and ceases infiltration of South Vietnam.”
- Oct 24 1977 - Veterans Day is observed on the fourth Monday in October for the seventh and last time. (The holiday is once again observed on November 11 beginning the following year.)

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- Oct 25 1777 – American Revolution: The First Continental Congress sends a respectful petition to King George III to inform his majesty that if it had not been for the acts of oppression forced upon the colonies by the British Parliament, the American people would be standing behind British rule. The king did not respond to the petition to Congress’ satisfaction and eight months later on July 6, 1775,

the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution entitled “Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms.”

- Oct 25 1812 – War of 1812: The American frigate, USS United States, commanded by Stephen Decatur, captures the British frigate HMS Macedonian. During battle, United States broadsides the British frigate and destroys her mizzen top mast, which let her driver gaff fall. This advantage allows United States to riddle the enemy methodically with shot. After surrender, Macedonian is eventually repaired and entered into U.S. naval service.



**HMS Macedonian versus USS United States By Thomas Birch**

- Oct 25 1813 – War of 1812: USS Congress, commanded by Capt. John Smith, captures and burns the British merchant ship Rose in the Atlantic off the coast of Brazil.



**USS Congress**

- Oct 25 1916 – WW1: French troops rejoice after recapturing Fort Douaumont, the preeminent fortress guarding the city of Verdun, under siege by the German army since the previous February.
- Oct 25 1940 – PreWW2: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. is named the first African American general in the United States Army.
- Oct 25 1944 – WW2: Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, takes place in and around the Philippines between the Imperial Japanese Navy and the U.S. Third and U.S. Seventh Fleets.
- Oct 25 1944 – WW2: U.S. and Australian warships maul the advancing enemy with torpedoes and heavy guns during the Battle of Surigao Strait in the midst of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The Japanese lose battleships Fuso and Yamashiro, plus three destroyers. The Battle of Surigao Strait marks the end of an era in naval warfare -- it was the last engagement of a battle line.
- Oct 25 1944 – WW2: During the Battle off Samar in the midst of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, four Japanese battleships, eight cruisers and 11 destroyers surprise U.S. Navy Task Unit 77.4.3 consisting of six escort carriers, three destroyers, and four destroyer escorts. Despite their great inferiority in numbers, speed and fire power, U.S. airmen and surface sailors fight heroically to defend their carriers.

- Oct 25 1944 – WW2: During the Battle off Cape Engaño, 3rd Fleet carrier aircraft, surface ships and submarines strike the Japanese Northern Force off northeastern Luzon. The Japanese lose aircraft carriers Zuikaku, Zuiho, Chitose and Chiyoda, as well as a light cruiser and two destroyers.
- Oct 25 1944 – WW2: During the Battle of the Leyte Gulf, the Japanese deploy kamikaze (“divine wind”) suicide bombers against American warships for the first time. It will prove costly—to both sides.



- Oct 25 1950 – Korea: A reconnaissance platoon for a South Korean division reaches the Yalu River. They are the only elements of the U.N. force to reach the river before the Chinese offensive pushes the whole army down into South Korea.
- Oct 25 1958 – Lebanon: The last U.S. troops leave Beirut.
- Oct 25 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis: Adlai Stevenson shows photos at the UN proving Soviet missiles are installed in Cuba. President Kennedy orders the U.S. military to DEFCON 2.
- Oct 25 1971 – Cold War: In a dramatic reversal of its long-standing commitment to the Nationalist Chinese government of Taiwan, and a policy of non-recognition of the communist People’s Republic of China (PRC), America’s U.N. representatives vote to seat the PRC as a permanent member. Over American objections, Taiwan was expelled.
- Oct 25 1972 – Vietnam: The White House (Nixon) orders a suspension of bombing above the 20th parallel as a signal of U.S. approval of recent North Vietnamese concessions at the secret peace talks in Paris.
- Oct 25 1973 – White House: President Nixon vetoes the War Powers Resolution, which would limit presidential power to commit armed forces abroad without Congressional approval. Nevertheless, Congress passed the law over Nixon’s veto on November 7, 1973.
- Oct 25 1983 – Grenada: Operation Urgent Fury Began. 1,800 U.S. troops and 300. Caribbean troops land six days after Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several of his supporters are executed in a coup d’état. By Nov. 2, all military objectives are secured. The next day, hostilities are declared to be at an end. Grenadians put their country back in order--schools and businesses reopen for the first time in at least two weeks. Evidence is found of a strong Cuban and Soviet presence--large stores of arms and documents suggesting close links to Cuba.
- Oct 25 1986 – USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) is commissioned at Newport News, Va.

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- Oct 26 1775 – King George III goes before Parliament to declare the American colonies in rebellion, and authorized a military response to quell the American Revolution.
- Oct 26 1812 – War of 1812: The frigate USS Constitution captures the frigate HMS Guerriere, off Halifax, Nova Scotia after an intense battle.

- Oct 26 1813 – War of 1812: Canadians and Mohawks defeat the Americans in the Battle of Chateaugay. Casualties and losses: Mohawk Nation 22 - US 84.
- Oct 26 1818 – Capt. James Biddle, as commanding officer of USS Ontario, takes possession of Oregon Territory for United States.
- Oct 26 1864 – Civil War: The notorious Confederate guerrilla leader William “Bloody Bill” Anderson is killed in Missouri in a Union ambush outside of Albany Missouri. The body of the “blood-drenched savage,” as he became known in the area, was placed on public display. Anderson kept a rope to record his killings, and there were reportedly 54 knots in it at the time of his death.
- Oct 26 1936 – Lt. B. L. Braun, pilot, completes test bombing against the submarine USS R -8 (SS 85) off the Virginia capes, sinking the old submarine and proving the value of properly armed aircraft in antisubmarine warfare.
- Oct 26 1940 – The P-51 Mustang makes its maiden flight.
- Oct 26 1942 – WW2: In the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands during the Guadalcanal Campaign, one U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet (CV-8) is damaged so extensively by Japanese war planes in the Battle of Santa Cruz that it must be abandoned. Another aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise and the battleship South Dakota is heavily damaged. While the United States losses at Santa Cruz were heavy, the cost in aircraft to the Japanese was so extensive—more than 100, including 25 of the 27 bombers that attacked the Hornet—that they were unable finally to reinforce their troops at Guadalcanal, paving the way for an American victory.
- Oct 26 1943 – WW2: First flight of the German Dornier Do 335 "Pfeil" heavy fighter.
- Oct 26 1943 – USS Finback (SS 230) sinks the Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser (No.109) off the eastern Celebes.
- Oct 26 1944 – WW2: The Battle of Leyte Gulf - After four days of furious fighting the largest air-naval battle in history, ends with a decisive American victory over the Japanese.
- Oct 26 1950 – Korea: A reconnaissance platoon for a South Korean division reaches the Yalu River. They are the only elements of the U.N. force to reach the river before the Chinese offensive pushes the whole army down into South Korea.
- Oct 26 1955 – Vietnam: Ngo Dinh Diem declares that pursuant to the wishes of the South Vietnamese people, as evidenced in a national referendum a few days before, the Republic of Vietnam is now in existence and that he will serve as the nation’s first president. The event marked a crucial step in the deepening U.S. involvement in Vietnam, and gave evidence of some troubling aspects that would characterize Diem’s eight years in power.
- Oct 26 1966 – Vietnam: A fire breaks out on board the 42,000-ton U.S. aircraft carrier Oriskany in the Gulf of Tonkin. The accident occurred when a locker filled with night illumination magnesium flares burst into flame. The fire spread quickly through most of the ship, resulting in 35 officers and eight enlisted men killed and a further 16 injured. The loss of life would have been much higher except for the valor of crewmen who pushed 300 500-pound, 1,000-pound, and 2,000-pound bombs that lay within reach of the flames on the hangar deck overboard. The fire destroyed four fighter-bombers and two helicopters, but it was brought under control after three hours. The fallen were returned to the United States for burial.
- Oct 26 1968 – Vietnam: The 1st Infantry Division troops are attacked in Binh Long Province (III Corps), 60 miles north of Saigon near the Cambodian border. Communist forces launched a mortar, rocket, and ground attack against Fire Support Base (FSB) Julie, eight miles west of An Loc. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, manned the FSB. U.S. B-52s conducted 22 strikes over the area in an effort to disperse a reported massing of North Vietnamese forces. The defenders were successful in fending off the Communist attack but eight soldiers were killed and 33 were wounded.
- Oct 26 1981 – Two F-14 Tomcats of VF-41 shoot down two Libyan (Su 22) Sukhoi aircraft over international waters. Flying off USS Nimitz (CVA(N) 68), the Tomcats are on a reconnaissance mission for a missile-firing exercise being conducted by U.S. ships from two carrier battle groups when they are fired on by the Libyan planes.

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- Oct 27 1775 – American Revolution: King George III speaks before both houses of the British Parliament to discuss growing concern about the rebellion in America, which he viewed as a traitorous action against himself and Great Britain. He began his speech by reading a “Proclamation of Rebellion” and urged Parliament to move quickly to end the revolt and bring order to the colonies.
- Oct 27 1812 – War of 1812: The frigate Essex, commanded by Capt. David Porter, departs Delaware capes on a cruise into the Pacific Ocean around Cape Horn for attacks on the British whaling industry.
- Oct 27 1862 – Civil War: A Confederate force is routed at the Battle of Georgia Landing, near Bayou Lafourche in Louisiana.
- Oct 27 1864 – Civil War: On this day in 1864, at the First Battle of Hatcher’s Run (also known as the Battle of Boydton Plank Road), Virginia, Union troops are turned back when they try to cut the last railroad supplying the Confederate force in Petersburg, Virginia. About 1,700 Yankee men were killed, wounded, or captured. Confederate losses were not reported but were thought to be less than 1,000, most of them captured soldiers. The battle was a disaster for the Union and caused embarrassment to President Abraham Lincoln’s administration just a week before the presidential election.
- Oct 27 1864 – Civil War: Lt. William B. Cushing takes the torpedo boat Picket Boat No. 1 upriver to Plymouth, N.C. and attacks CSS Albemarle at her berth, sinking her with a spar torpedo.
- Oct 27 1922 – The Navy League of the United States sponsors the first celebration of Navy Day to focus public attention on the importance of the U.S. Navy. The date is selected because it is Theodore Roosevelt’s birthday. Navy Day is last observed Oct. 27, 1949. In the 1970s, Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt works with the Navy League to define Oct. 13 to celebrate the Navy.
- Oct 27 1941 – WW2: In a broadcast to the nation on Navy Day, President Franklin Roosevelt declares: "America has been attacked, the shooting has started." He does not ask for full-scale war yet, realizing that many Americans are not yet ready for such a step.
- Oct 27 1944 – WW2: French Gen. Charles de Gaulle, speaking for the Free French Forces from his temporary headquarter in equatorial Africa, calls all French men and women everywhere to join the struggle to preserve and defend free French territory and “to attack the enemy wherever it is possible, to mobilize all our military, economic, and moral resources... to make justice reign.”
- Oct 27 1944 – WW2: Aircraft from USS Essex (CV 9) sink the Japanese destroyer Fujinami while aircraft from USS Enterprise (CV 6) sink the Japanese destroyer Shiranui 80 miles north of Iloilo, Panay.
- Oct 27 1954 – Benjamin O. Davis Jr. becomes the first African-American general in the United States Air Force.
- Oct 27 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis An American U-2 reconnaissance plane is shot down by a surface-to-air missile over Cuba, killing the pilot, Maj. Rudolf Anderson, the only direct human casualty of the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Oct 27 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis: a U.S. U-2 plane shot down by a Soviet missile crew, complicated tension-filled negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union in a plan to end the two-week-old crisis. A frightening period in which nuclear holocaust seemed imminent began to come to an end. Since President John F. Kennedy’s October 22 address warning the Soviets to cease their reckless program to put nuclear weapons in Cuba and announcing a naval “quarantine” against additional weapons shipments into Cuba, the world held its breath waiting to see whether the two superpowers would come to blows. U.S. armed forces went on alert and the Strategic Air Command went to a Stage 4 alert (one step away from nuclear attack).
- Oct 27 1966 – Vietnam: U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Averell Harriman visits 10 nations to explain the results of the Manila conference and the current U.S. evaluation of the situation in Southeast Asia. The Communist Chinese news agency Hsinhua had already denounced the Manila pledge to remove

troops as “out-and-out blackmail and shameless humbug.” The North Vietnamese did not respond favorably to the Manila pledge and it had no impact on the conduct of the war, which continued unabated.

- Oct 27 1988 – Cold War: President Ronald Reagan decides to tear down the new U.S. Embassy in Moscow because of Soviet listening devices in the building structure.

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- Oct 28 1775 – American Revolution: The new commander in chief of the British army, Major General Sir William Howe, issues a proclamation to the residents of Boston which forbade any person from leaving the city and ordered citizens to organize into military companies in order to “contribute all in his power for the preservation of order and good government within the town of Boston.”
- Oct 28 1776 – American Revolution: Battle of White Plains – British Army forces arrive at White Plains, attack and capture Chatterton Hill from the Americans. Casualties and losses: US 434 - GB 233.
- Oct 28 1812 – War of 1812: The brig Argus, commanded by Commodore Arthur Sinclair, captures the British merchant brig Fly in the North Atlantic.
- Oct 28 1864 – Civil War: Second Battle of Fair Oaks – Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant withdraw from Fair Oaks, Virginia, after failing to breach the Confederate defenses around Richmond, Virginia. Casualties and losses: US 1,100 - CSA 450.
- Oct 28 1918 – WWI: Sailors in the German High Seas Fleet steadfastly refuse to obey an order from the German Admiralty to go to sea to launch one final attack on the mighty British navy, echoing the frustrated, despondent mood of many on the side of the Central Powers during the last days of World War I.
- Oct 28 1943 – WW2: Lt. Franklin M. Murray, in a TBF Avenger, and Ensign Gerald L. Handshuh, in an FM-2 Wildcat, from Composite Squadron (VC) 1 on USS Block Island (CVE 21), sink German submarine U-220 east of Newfoundland.
- Oct 28 1944 – WW2: Mussolini’s army, already occupying Albania, invades Greece in what will prove to be a disastrous military campaign for the Duce’s forces.
- Oct 28 1944 - WW2: USS Gleaves (DD 423), while operating off the Franco-Italian coast, bombards German troop concentrations, barracks, and gun emplacements. Enemy shore fire at the destroyer is inaccurate, but Gleaves achieves excellent return fire results.
- Oct 28 1944 - WW2: The first B-29 Superfortress bomber mission flies from the airfields in the Mariana Islands in a strike against the Japanese base at Truk.
- Oct 28 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis: The crisis comes to a close as Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agrees to remove Russian missiles from Cuba in exchange for a promise from the United States to respect Cuba’s territorial sovereignty. Blockade formally ends 20 NOV when removal of all missile and Ilyushin Il-28 light bombers was completed.





- Oct 28 1964 – Vietnam: U.S. T-28 airplanes flown by Thai pilots bomb and strafe North Vietnamese villages in the Mugia Pass area. North Vietnam charged publicly that U.S. personnel participated in the raids, but U.S. officials denied that any Americans were involved.
- Oct 28 1965 – Vietnam: Viet Cong commandos damage and destroy a number of allied aircraft in two separate raids on U.S. air bases, including Chu Lai, on the coast of the South China Sea in Quang Tin Province, I Corps.

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- Oct 29 1814 – The first steam-powered U.S. Navy warship, Fulton, launches at New York City. Commissioned in June 1816, she carries President James Monroe on a day cruise in New York Harbor a year later.
- Oct 29 1863 – Civil War: Battle of Wauhatchie (i.e. Battle of Brown's Ferry) – Union Forces under General Ulysses S. Grant repel a Confederate night attack led by General James Longstreet opening a supply line into Chattanooga, Tennessee. Casualties and losses: US 420 - CSA 408.
- Oct 29 1941 – WW2: Holocaust - In the Kaunas Ghetto over 10,000 Jews are shot by German occupiers at the Ninth Fort, a massacre known as the "Great Action".
- Oct 30 1941 - WW2: Franklin Delano Roosevelt approves U.S. \$1 billion in Lend-Lease aid to the Allied nations.
- Oct 29 1942 – WW2: PBY-5 Catalinas from Patrol Squadron (VP) 11 sink Japanese submarine I 172.
- Oct 29 1956 – The 6th Fleet is ordered to evacuate U.S. nationals during the Suez Canal Crisis. Some of the ships involved are USS Coral Sea (CVA 43), USS Randolph (CVA 15), USS Antietam (CVA 36), and a series of support vessels. By Nov. 3, approximately 2,000 people are evacuated.
- Oct 29 1971 – Vietnam: The total number of U.S. troops remaining in Vietnam drops to 196,700 – the lowest level since January 1966. This was a result of the Vietnamization program announced by President Richard Nixon at the June 1969 Midway Conference.
- Oct 29 1980 – USS Parsons (DDG 33) rescues 110 Vietnamese refugees 330 miles south of Saigon.
- Oct 29 2004 – 911: For the first time, Osama bin Laden admits direct responsibility for the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the US; his comments are part of a video broadcast by the Al Jazeera network.

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- Oct 30 1775 – American Revolution: The Continental Congress appoints seven members to serve on an administrative naval committee tasked with the acquisition, outfitting and manning of a naval fleet to be used in defense against the British. Almost two weeks earlier, on October 13, 1775, Congress had authorized the construction and arming of vessels for the country's first navy.
- Oct 30 1863 – The wooden side-wheel steam ship Vanderbilt captures the bark Saxon, which was suspected of having rendezvoused with and taken cargo from CSS Tuscaloosa at Angra Pequena, Africa.
- Oct 30 1918 – WWI: Aboard the British battleship Agamemnon, anchored in the port of Mudros on the Aegean island of Lemnos, representatives of Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire sign an armistice treaty marking the end of Ottoman participation in the First World War.
- Oct 30 1941 – WW2: The oiler USS Salinas (AO 19) is torpedoed near Newfoundland by German submarine U-106. Without loss of life to Salinas crew, the vessel returns to New York for repairs.
- Oct 30 1941 – WW2: The U.S. destroyer Reuben James, on convoy duty off Iceland, is sunk by a German U-boat with the loss of 96 Americans.
- Oct 30 1941 – WW2: President Roosevelt, determined to keep the United States out of the war while helping those allies already mired in it, approves \$1 billion in Lend-Lease loans to the Soviet Union. The terms: no interest and repayment did not have to start until five years after the war was over.

- Oct 30 1942 – WW2: Lt. Tony Fasson, Able Seaman Colin Grazier and canteen assistant Tommy Brown from HMS Petard board U-559, retrieving material which would lead to the decryption of the German Enigma code.



- Oct 30 1944 – WW2: USS Argus (PY 14) rescues all survivors of the U.S. freighter John A. Johnson, which was sunk by Japanese submarine I-12 the previous day, north of Oahu.
- Oct 30 1944 – WW2: USS Franklin (CV 13) and USS Belleau Wood (CVL 24) are hit by a Japanese kamikaze near the Philippines. The attack on Franklin kills 56 of her crew and the attack on Belleau Wood sees 92 of her crew killed or missing. Both ships return to the U.S. for repairs.
- Oct 30 1950 – Korea: The First Marine Division is ordered to replace the entire South Korean I Corps at the Chosin Reservoir area.
- Oct 30 1953 – Cold War: U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower formally approves the top secret document National Security Council Paper No. 162/2, which states that the United States' arsenal of nuclear weapons must be maintained and expanded to counter the communist threat.
- Oct 30 1961 – Cold War: The USSR detonates “Tsar Bomba,” a 50-megaton hydrogen bomb; it is still (2016) the largest explosive device of any kind ever detonated.
- Oct 30 1965 – Vietnam: Just miles from Da Nang, United States Marines repel an intense attack by wave after wave of Viet Cong forces, killing 56 guerrillas. Among the dead, a sketch of Marine positions is found on the body of a 13-year-old Vietnamese boy who sold drinks to the Marines the day before.
- Oct 30 1970 – Vietnam: The worst monsoon to hit the area in six years causes large floods, kills 293, leaves 200,000 homeless and virtually halts the Vietnam War.

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- Oct 31 1776 – American Revolution: In his first speech before British Parliament since the leaders of the American Revolution came together to sign of the Declaration of Independence that summer, King George III acknowledges that all was not going well for Britain in the war with the United States.
- Oct 31 1803 – The frigate Philadelphia runs aground near Tripoli while pursuing an enemy vessel in shallow water. As a result, the Tripolitans send a large gunboat force and attack Philadelphia. Stuck fast and listing, she is defenseless and Capt. William Bainbridge surrenders. Under Commodore Edward Prebles orders, Lt. Stephen Decatur leads a mission to burn Philadelphia early the following year.
- Oct 31 1917 – WWI: Allied forces under General Edmund Allenby launch an attack on Turkish positions at Beersheba, in Palestine, beginning the Third Battle of Gaza.
- Oct 31 1917 – WWI: Battle of Beersheba. Allied victory. Australian mounted division conduct the last successful cavalry charge in history. Casualties and losses: Allies 171 - Ottoman/German Empires 1900.

- Oct 31 1941 – WW2: German submarine U-562 sinks USS Reuben James (DD 245) as she escorted Convoy HX 156, killing 115 of her crew. Reuben James is the first U.S. ship lost to enemy action in World War II.
- Oct 31 1943 – WW2: An F4U Corsair accomplishes the first successful radar-guided interception.
- Oct 31 1952 – Cold War: The U.S. explodes the first hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific.
- Oct 31 1956 – The U.S. Navy lands seven men in an R4D Skytrain on the ice at the South Pole. They are the first men to stand on the South Pole since Capt. Robert F. Scott in 1912.
- Oct 31 1966 – Vietnam: While serving as boat captain and patrol officer on board River Patrol Boat (PBR) 105 in Vietnam, Boatswains Mate 1st Class James E. Williams and his crew are taken under fire, facing a superior number of enemy vessels. Williams leads his men to sink 65 enemy craft and inflict numerous casualties among the enemy. He is awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions. USS James E. Williams (DDG 95) is named in his honor.
- Oct 31 1968 – Vietnam: In a televised address to the nation five days before the presidential election, President Lyndon Johnson announces that on the basis of developments in the Paris peace negotiations, he has ordered the complete cessation of “all air, naval, and artillery bombardment of North Vietnam.” Accordingly, effective November 1, the U.S. Air Force called a halt to the air raids on North Vietnam known as Operation Rolling Thunder.
- Oct 31 1971 – Vietnam: Saigon begins the release of 1,938 Hanoi POW’s.
- Oct 31 1972 – Vietnam: While participating in a daring operation against enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam, Engineman 1st Class Michael E. Thornton and Lt. Thomas R. Norris come under fire from a numerically superior force. Calling in for support and engaging the enemy, Norris is wounded by enemy fire. Learning that his lieutenant is down, Thornton bravely rushes through a hail of fire, fights off two enemy soldiers, and succeeds in removing Norris. Inflating Norris lifejacket, Thornton then tows him seaward for approximately two hours until they are picked up by support craft. Thornton is later awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

[Source: Various Oct 2017 ++]