



Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 15 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 00 1943 – WW2: USS Dorado (SS-248) – Date of sinking unknown. Most likely either accidentally bombed and sunk by friendly Guantanamo-based flying boat on 13 October or sunk by a German submarine mine in the West Indies. 77 killed
- Oct 01 1776 – American Revolution: Benjamin Franklin and Robert Morris receive information that the French are going to purchase arms and ammunition in Holland and send them to the West Indies for use by the American Patriots.
- Oct 01 1864 – Civil War: Confederate spy Rose O’Neal Greenhow drowns off the North Carolina coast when a Yankee craft runs her ship aground. She was returning from a trip to England. Greenhow was carrying Confederate dispatches and \$2,000 in gold. Insisting that she be taken ashore, she boarded a small lifeboat that overturned in the rough surf.
- Oct 01 1880 – John Philip Sousa becomes leader of the United States Marine Band.



- Oct 01 1942 – WW2: USS Grouper torpedoes Lisbon Maru not knowing she is carrying 1800 British POWs from Hong Kong. Over 800 died in the sinking.
- Oct 01 1942 – WW2: First flight of the first American jet fighter aircraft Bell XP-59 'Airacomet'. The USAF was not impressed by its performance and cancelled the contract when fewer than half of the aircraft ordered had been produced
- Oct 01 1943 – WW2: Naples falls to Allied soldiers.
- Oct 01 1944 – WW2: The first of two sets of medical experiments involving castration are performed on homosexuals at the Buchenwald concentration camp, near Weimar, Germany.
- Oct 01 1946 – PostWW2: 12 high-ranking Nazis are sentenced to death by the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg. Among those condemned to death by hanging were Joachim von Ribbentrop, Nazi minister of foreign affairs; Hermann Goering, founder of the Gestapo and chief of the German air force; and Wilhelm Frick, minister of the interior. Seven others, including Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler’s former deputy, were given prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life. Three others were acquitted.
- Oct 01 1947 – F-86 Sabre – The transonic jet fighter aircraft flies for the first time.

- Oct 01 1947 – Cold War: Naming himself head of state, communist revolutionary Mao Zedong officially proclaims the existence of the People’s Republic of China; Zhou Enlai is named premier. The proclamation was the climax of years of battle between Mao’s communist forces and the regime of Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek, who had been supported with money and arms from the American government. The loss of China, the largest nation in Asia, to communism was a severe blow to the United States, which was still reeling from the Soviet Union’s detonation of a nuclear device one month earlier.
- Oct 01 1951 – 24th Infantry Regiment, last all-black military unit, deactivated.
- Oct 01 1957 – Cold War: B-52 bombers begin full-time flying alert in case of USSR attack.
- Oct 01 1979 – The United States returns sovereignty of the Panama Canal to Panama.
- Oct 01 1988 – Cold War: Having forced the resignation of Soviet leader Andrei Gromyko, Mikhail Gorbachev names himself head of the Supreme Soviet. Within two years, he was named “Man of the Decade” by *Time* magazine for his role in bringing the Cold War to a close.
- Oct 01 1992 – U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga cripples Turkish destroyer TCG Muavenet (DM-357) causing 27 deaths and injuries by negligently launched missiles.
- Oct 02 1780 – American Revolution: John André, British Army officer of the American Revolutionary War, is hanged as a spy by American forces.
- Oct 02 1835 – The Texas Revolution: Battle of Gonzales – Begins when Mexican soldiers attempt to disarm the people of Gonzales, Texas, and encounter stiff resistance from a hastily assembled militia.
- Oct 02 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Saltville – 5,000 Union forces attack Saltville, Virginia, but are defeated by 300 Confederate troops. The Confederacy’s main source of salt, used as a preservative for army rations, was secured as the war entered its final phase. Combined casualties 458
- Oct 02 1912 – Nicaraguan Occupation Aug-Nov: U.S. forces defeat rebels under the command of Benjamin Zeledón at the Battle of Coyotepe Hill. Casualties and losses: US 14 - Rebels 32.
- Oct 02 1941 – WW2: Operation Typhoon. The Germans begin their surge to Moscow, led by the 1st Army Group and Gen. Fedor von Bock. Russian peasants in the path of Hitler’s army employ a “scorched-earth” policy.
- Oct 02 1944 – WW2: Battle of Aachen Germany begins. Fighting for the city took place between 13–21 OCT.
- Oct 02 1944 – Warsaw Uprising: After 63 days, the Poles—out of arms, supplies, food, and water—were forced to surrender. In the aftermath, the Nazis deported much of Warsaw’s population and destroyed the city. With protestors in Warsaw out of the way, the Soviets faced little organized opposition in establishing a communist government in Poland.
- Oct 02 1966 – Vietnam: The Soviet Defense Ministry newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, reports that Russian military experts have come under fire during U.S. raids against North Vietnamese missile sites while the Soviets were training North Vietnamese soldiers in the use of Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles.
- Oct 03 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Corinth - Confederates under General Earl Van Dorn attempt to recapture Corinth, a vital rail center in Mississippi. However, the following day, the Second Battle of Corinth ended in defeat for the Rebels. The Confederate defeat at Corinth allowed the Union to focus attention on capturing Vicksburg, Mississippi, the last major Rebel stronghold on the Mississippi River.
- Oct 03 1917 – WWI: Six months after the United States declared war on Germany and began its participation in the First World War, the U.S. Congress passes the War Revenue Act, increasing income taxes to unprecedented levels in order to raise more money for the war effort. By the time World War I ended in 1918, income tax revenue had funded a full one-third of the cost of the war effort.
- Oct 03 1940 – WW2: U.S. Army forms airborne (parachute) troops.
- Oct 03 1942 – WW2: German rocket scientist Wernher von Braun’s brainchild, the V-2 missile, is fired successfully from Peenemunde, as island off Germany’s Baltic coast. It traveled 118 miles. It

proved extraordinarily deadly in the war and was the precursor to the Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) of the postwar era.

- Oct 03 1944 – WW2: USS Seawolf (SS-197) accidentally sunk by naval aircraft from USS Midway (CVE-63) and USS Richard M. Rowell (DE-403) off Morotai Island. 100 died.
- Oct 03 1952 – Cold War: Britain successfully tests its first atomic bomb at the Monte Bello Islands, off the northwest coast of Australia. The test made Britain the world's third atomic power after the United States and the Soviet Union.
- Oct 03 1961 – Vietnam: Battle of Dak To. In some of the heaviest fighting seen in the Central Highlands area, heavy casualties are sustained by both sides in bloody battles around Dak To, about 280 miles north of Saigon near the Cambodian border. During this battle, the North Vietnamese failed to achieve one of their main objectives, which was the destruction of an American unit. They came close, but the Americans, despite heavy losses, had achieved the true victory: they mauled three enemy regiments so badly that they were unavailable for the Tet Offensive that the Communists launched in late January 1968.
- Oct 03 1967 – Vietnam: Elements of the 1st Cavalry Division launch Operation Wallowa in South Vietnam's northernmost provinces. As these operations commenced, U.S. planes raided North Vietnamese supply routes and attacked bridges only 10 miles from the Chinese frontier.
- Oct 03 1990 – Cold War: Less than one year after the destruction of the Berlin Wall, East and West Germany come together on what is known as "Unity Day." Although this action came more than a year before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, for many observers the reunification of Germany effectively marked the end of the Cold War.
- Oct 03 1993 – Somalia Intervention: Battle of Bakhara Market, Mogadishu – In an attempt to capture officials of warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid's organization in Mogadishu, Somalia, 18 US soldiers and about 1,000 Somalis are killed in heavy fighting.
- Oct 04 1777 – American Revolution: Battle of Germantown – Troops under George Washington are repelled by British troops under Sir William Howe. Casualties and losses: US 1111 - GB 533.
- Oct 04 1918 – WWI: In the early hours of October 4, 1918, German Chancellor Max von Baden, appointed by Kaiser Wilhelm II just three days earlier, sends a telegraph message to the administration of President Woodrow Wilson in Washington, D.C., requesting an armistice between Germany and the Allied powers.
- Oct 04 1918 – An explosion kills more than 100 and destroys the T.A. Gillespie Company Shell Loading Plant in Sayreville, New Jersey. Fires and explosions continue for three days forcing massive evacuations and spreading ordnance over a wide area, pieces of which were still being found as of 2007.



Residents of Morgan, NJ flee from the Morgan Depot explosions to Perth Amboy.

- Oct 04 1943 – World War II: U.S. captures Solomon Islands. Casualties and losses: Allies 10,600 KIA, 40+ Ships, & 800 aircraft - JP 80,000 KIA, 50+ ships & 1500 aircraft.
- Oct 04 1944 – WW2: Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower distributes to his combat units a report by the U.S. Surgeon General that reveals the hazards of prolonged exposure to combat. "[T]he danger of being killed or maimed imposes a strain so great that it causes men to break down. One look at the shrunken, apathetic faces of psychiatric patients...sobbing, trembling, referring shudderingly to 'them

shells' and to buddies mutilated or dead, is enough to convince most observers of this fact." On the basis of this evaluation, as well as firsthand experience, American commanders judged that the average soldier could last about 200 days in combat before suffering serious psychiatric damage.

- Oct 04 1957 – Cold War: The successful launch of the unmanned satellite *Sputnik I* by the Soviet Union in October 1957 shocks and frightens many Americans. As the tiny satellite orbited the earth, Americans reacted with dismay that the Soviets could have gotten so far ahead of the supposedly technologically superior United States. There was also fear that with their new invention, the Soviets had gained the upper hand in the arms race.
- Oct 04 1964 – Cold War: President Johnson issues the order to reactivate North Vietnamese coastal raids by South Vietnamese boats as part of Oplan 34A. These raids had been suspended after the Gulf of Tonkin incident in early August.
- Oct 05 1813 – War of 1812: Battle of the Thames – U.S. victory in Ontario broke Britain's Indian allies with the death of Shawnee Chief Tecumseh and made the Detroit frontier safe. Casualties and losses: US 27 - GB/Indians 616.
- Oct 05 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Altoona - After losing the city of Atlanta, Confederate General John Bell Hood attacks Union General William T. Sherman's supply line at Allatoona Pass, Georgia. Hood's men could not take the Union stronghold, and they were forced to retreat into Alabama.
- Oct 05 1914 – WWI: First aerial combat resulting in an intentional fatality.
- Oct 05 1915 – WWI: At the request of the Greek prime minister, Eleutherios Venizelos, Britain and France agree to land troops at the city of Salonika (now Thessaloniki), in northern Greece.
- Oct 05 1942 – WW2: Joseph Stalin, premier and dictator of the Soviet Union, fires off a telegram to the German and Soviet front at Stalingrad, exhorting his forces to victory. "That part of Stalingrad which has been captured must be liberated." Joseph Stalin, premier and dictator of the Soviet Union, fires off a telegram to the German and Soviet front at Stalingrad, exhorting his forces to victory. "That part of Stalingrad which has been captured must be liberated."
- Oct 05 1943 – WW2: 98 American POW's executed by Japanese forces on Wake Island.
- Oct 05 1965 – Korea: U.S. forces in Saigon receive permission to use tear gas
- Oct 05 1966 – Vietnam: Hanoi insists the United States must end its bombings before peace talks can begin.
- Oct 05 1986 – Cold War: Iran-Contra Scandal - Eugene Hasenfus is captured by troops of the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua after the plane in which he is flying is shot down; two others on the plane die in the crash. Under questioning, Hasenfus confessed that he was shipping military supplies into Nicaragua for use by the Contras, an anti-Sandinista force that had been created and funded by the United States. Most dramatically, he claimed that operation was really run by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- Oct 05 2001 – Afghanistan: Operation Enduring Freedom begins (GWOT).
- Oct 06 1777 – American Revolution: Sailing up the Hudson River to come to the aid of General John Burgoyne and the besieged British army at the Battle of Saratoga, General Henry Clinton and 3,000 British troops stop to launch an attack on Forts Clinton and Montgomery. Despite the loss of both forts and an overwhelming number of troops, though, the Americans were able to delay the British long enough that they were unable to aid Cornwallis at the Battle of Saratoga. The decisive American victory at Saratoga persuaded King Louis XVI of France that the Patriots were worthy of his support—assistance that eventually helped the Americans win the war.
- Oct 06 1863 – Civil War: Confederate guerilla leader William Clarke Quantrill continues his bloody rampage through Kansas when he attacks Baxter Springs. Although he failed to capture the Union stronghold, his men massacred a Federal detachment that happened to be traveling nearby.
- Oct 06 1945 – WW2: Former French premier and Vichy collaborator Pierre Laval tries to kill himself on the day he is to be executed for treason. He swallows cyanide before they could come for him. A physician saved his life—just in time for Laval to be executed a little less than two weeks later.

- Oct 06 1971 – Vietnam: Operation Jefferson Glenn – The last major operation in which US ground forces participated ends.
- Oct 06 1973 – Cold War: The surprise attack by Egyptian and Syrian forces on Israel in the Yom Kippur War throws the Middle East into turmoil and threatens to bring the United States and the Soviet Union into direct conflict for the first time since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Though actual combat did not break out between the two nations, the events surrounding the Yom Kippur War seriously damaged U.S.-Soviet relations and all but destroyed President Richard Nixon's much publicized policy of detente.
- Oct 07 1777 – American Revolution: Americans beat British in 2nd Battle of Saratoga aka. Battle of Bemis Heights. The British surrendered 10 days later. Casualties and losses of both battles: US 330 - GB 8,398.
- Oct 07 1780 – American Revolution: Patriot militia under Colonel William Campbell defeat Loyalist militia under Major Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of King's Mountain in North Carolina near the border with Blacksburg, South Carolina. Of the 2,000 men that fought for both sides at the battle, 1,900 were born on American soil. Only Ferguson and 100 of his personally trained Redcoats were Britons.
- Oct 07 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Darbytown Road: Confederate forces' attempt to regain ground that had been lost around Richmond is thwarted. Casualties and losses: US 437 - CSA 513. Lee did not make another attempt to regain the ground and focused instead on setting up defenses closer to Richmond.
- Oct 07 1864 – Civil War: USS Wachusett – Captures the Confederate raider ship CSS Florida while in port in Bahia, Brazil.
- Oct 07 1914 – WWI: Antwerp - Advancing German forces bombard the Belgian city as Belgian troops and their British allies struggle to resist the onslaught. On October 8, Antwerp was evacuated; its military governor, General Victor Deguise, formally surrendered to the Germans on October 10. German forces would occupy Antwerp for the duration of the war; it was finally liberated in late 1918.
- Oct 07 1940 – WW2: The McCollum memo proposes bringing the United States into the war in Europe by provoking the Japanese to attack the United States.
- Oct 07 1940 – WW2: Hitler occupies Romania as part of his strategy of creating an unbroken Eastern front to menace the Soviet Union.
- Oct 07 1943 – WW2: USS S-44 (SS-155) – Lost to Japanese escort destroyer Ishigaki, northeast Araitō Island off Kamchatka. 56 killed.
- Oct 07 1943 – WW2: Rear Adm. Shigematsu Sakaibara, commander of the Japanese garrison on the island, orders the execution of 96 Americans POWs, claiming they were trying to make radio contact with U.S. forces. The execution of those remaining American POWs, who were blindfolded and shot in cold blood, remains one of the more brutal episodes of the war in the Pacific.
- Oct 07 1944 – WW2: Auschwitz - A mini-revolt took place. As several hundred Jewish prisoners were being forced to carry corpses from the gas chambers to the furnace to dispose of the bodies, they blew up one of the gas chambers and set fire to another, using explosives smuggled to them from Jewish women who worked in a nearby armaments factory. Of the roughly 450 prisoners involved in the sabotage, about 250 managed to escape the camp during the ensuing chaos. They were all found and shot. Those co-conspirators who never made it out of the camp were also executed, as were five women from the armaments factory-but not before being tortured for detailed information on the smuggling operation. None of the women talked.
- Oct 07 1970 – Vietnam: Nixon Peace Proposal - In a televised speech, President Richard Nixon announces a five-point proposal to end the war, based on a "standstill" cease-fire in place in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. He proposed eventual withdrawal of U.S. forces, unconditional release of prisoners of war, and political solutions reflecting the will of the South Vietnamese people. Nixon said that the Communist proposals for the ouster of Nguyen Van Thieu, Nguyen Cao Ky, and

Tran Thiem Van Thieu were “totally unacceptable” and rejected them. These proposals were well received at home, but were rejected by the Communists a few days later.

- Oct 07 2001 – GWOT: U.S.-led coalition begins attacks on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan with an intense bombing campaign by American and British forces. Logistical support was provided by other nations including France, Germany, Australia and Canada and, later, troops were provided by the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance rebels. The invasion of Afghanistan was the opening salvo in the United States “war on terrorism” and a response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.
- Oct 08 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Perryville - The Confederate invasion of Kentucky stalls when Union General Don Carlos Buell stops General Braxton Bragg at the Battle of Perryville, the largest Civil War combat to take place in Kentucky. Casualties and losses: US 4,276 - CSA 3,401.
- Oct 08 1918 – WWI: In the Argonne Forest in France, U.S. Corporal Alvin C. York leads an attack that kills 25 German soldiers and captures 132.
- Oct 08 1941 – WW2: The German invasion of the Soviet Union begins a new stage, with Hitler’s forces capturing Mariupol. The Axis power reached the Sea of Azov. the capture at the sea’s edge, signaled the beginning of the end of Russia-as least as far as Hitler’s propoganda machine was concerned. “Soviet Russia has been vanquished!” Otto Dietrich, Hitler’s press chief, announced to foreign journalists the very next day.
- Oct 08 1944 – WW2: The Battle of Crucifix Hill – Capt. Bobbie Brown receives a Medal of Honor for his heroics in this battle just outside Aachen on Crucifix Hill.
- Oct 08 1950 – Korea: Chinese Communist Forces begin to infiltrate the North Korean Army.
- Oct 08 1968 – Vietnam: Operation Sealord – An attack on North Vietnamese supply lines and base areas in the Mekong Delta is launched by U.S. forces.
- Oct 08 1970 – Vietnam: In Paris, a Communist delegation rejects US President Richard Nixon's October 7 peace proposal as "a maneuver to deceive world opinion".
- Oct 09 1812 – War of 1812: In a naval engagement on Lake Erie, American forces capture two British ships: HMS Detroit and HMS Caledonia.
- Oct 09 1861 – Civil War: Battle of Santa Rosa Island – Union troops repel a Confederate attempt to capture Fort Pickens. Casualties and losses: US 67 - CSA 87.
- Oct 09 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Tom's Brook – Union cavalrymen in the Shenandoah Valley defeat Confederate forces at Tom's Brook, Virginia. Casualties and losses: US 57 - CSA 350.
- Oct 09 1914 – WWI: Siege of Antwerp – Antwerp, Belgium falls to German troops after 12 days. Casualties and losses: Ger Unk – GB 2437, Netherlands 33,000 interned & 30,000 Captured.



Belgian artillery position around Antwerp

- Oct 09 1915 – WWI: Austro-Hungarian forces capture the Serbian capital of Belgrade, assisted in their defeat of Serbian forces by German troops under the command of General August von Mackensen. Of all the belligerent nations during World War I, Serbia suffered the greatest number of casualties in relation to the size of its population. Its losses were staggering: Of some 420,000

soldiers in September 1915, 94,000 were killed in action and another 174,000 were captured or missing, while undoubtedly great numbers of civilian casualties remained uncalculated.

- Oct 09 1942 – WW2: The last day of the October Matanikau action on Guadalcanal as United States Marine Corps forces withdraw back across the Matanikau River after destroying most of the Imperial Japanese Army's 4th Infantry Regiment.
- Oct 09 1944 – WW2: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin begin a nine-day conference in Moscow, during which the war with Germany and the future of Europe are discussed.
- Oct 09 1966 – Vietnam: Dien Nien–Phuoc Binh massacre - Over 2 days South Korean forces massacre 280 unarmed citizens in Tinh Son village. Most of the victims were children, elderly and women.
- Oct 09 1950 – Korea: The invasion of North Korea begins when U.N. forces led by the 1st Cav Div cross the 38th parallel and begin attacking northward towards the capital of Pyongyang.
- Oct 09 1966 – Vietnam: Binh Tai massacre - South Korean troops set fire to the Binh Tai villagers' homes and shoot 68 villagers who fled the burning buildings.
- Oct 09 2006 – North Korea allegedly tests its first nuclear device.
- Oct 10 1812 – War of 1812: In a naval engagement on Lake Erie, American forces capture two British ships: HMS Detroit and HMS Caledonia.
- Oct 10 1845 – The U.S. Naval Academy (initially called the Naval School) at Annapolis MD opens with 50 midshipman students and seven professors.
- Oct 10 1861 – Civil War: Battle of Santa Rosa Island – Union troops repel a Confederate attempt to capture Fort Pickens.
- Oct 10 1862 – Civil War: In the aftermath of the Battle of Antietam, Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart and his men loot Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, during a raid into the north.
- Oct 10 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Tom's Brook – Union cavalymen in the Shenandoah Valley defeat Confederate forces at Tom's Brook, Virginia.
- Oct 10 1942 – WW2: Battle of Cape Esperance – On the northwest coast of Guadalcanal, United States Navy ships intercept and defeat a Japanese fleet on their way to reinforce troops on the island.
- Oct 10 1944 – WW2: US. Forces take Okinawa
- Oct 10 1944 – WW2: Auschwitz - 800 Gypsy children, including more than a hundred boys between 9 and 14 years old are systematically murdered.
- Oct 10 1965 – Vietnam: In the first major operation since arriving the previous month, the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) joins with South Vietnamese Marines to strike at 2,000 North Vietnamese troops 25 miles from An Khe in the Central Highlands. Faulty U.S.-South Vietnamese coordination prevented their forces from entrapping the North Vietnamese Army 325th Infantry Division, but they managed to reopen Route 19, between Pleiku and An Khe, the main east-west supply route in the region.
- Oct 10 1966 – Vietnam: Operation Robin – U.S. Forces launch operation in Hoa Province south of Saigon to provide road security between villages.
- Oct 10 1969 – Vietnam: The U.S. Navy transfers 80 river-patrol boats to the South Vietnamese Navy in the largest single transfer of naval equipment since the war began. This was part of the ongoing Vietnamization program, which had been announced by President Richard Nixon at Midway in June. Under this program, the United States sought to turn over responsibility for the fighting to the South Vietnamese so that U.S. troops could be withdrawn from Vietnam.
- Oct 10 1972 – Vietnam: A race riot involving 100 to 200 Afro American sailors occurs on the United States Navy aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk off the coast of Vietnam during Operation Linebacker.
- Oct 11 1776 – American Revolution: Battle of Valcour Island – A British fleet under Sir Guy Carleton defeats 15 American gunboats under the command of Brigadier General Benedict Arnold at the Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain. Although nearly all of Arnold's ships were destroyed, it took more than two days for the British to subdue the Patriot naval force, delaying

Carleton's campaign and giving the Patriot ground forces adequate time to prepare a crucial defense of New York.

- Oct 11 1845 – In Annapolis, Maryland, the Naval School (later renamed the United States Naval Academy) opens with 50 midshipman students and seven professors.
- Oct 11 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Antietam - In the aftermath of the battle Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart and his men loot Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, during a raid into the north.
- Oct 11 1915 – WWI: Prime Minister Vasil Radoslavov of Bulgaria issues a statement announcing his country's entrance into the First World War on the side of the Central Powers.
- Oct 11 1942 – WW2: Battle of Cape Esperance - On the northwest coast of Guadalcanal, United States Navy ships intercept and defeat a Japanese fleet on their way to reinforce troops on the island. The American Navy continued to harass Japanese ships trying to reinforce the Japanese position on the island; relatively few Japanese troops made it ashore. By the end of 1942, the Japanese were ready to evacuate the island—in defeat.
- Oct 11 1943 – WW2: USS Wahoo (SS-238) – Sunk by Japanese naval aircraft, submarine chasers Ch 15 and Ch 43, and minesweeper W.18 in La Perouse Strait off Japan. 80 killed.



- Oct 11 1954 – Vietnam: The Viet Minh formally take over Hanoi and control of North Vietnam. The Vietnam Doc Lap Dong Minh (Vietnam Independence League), or Viet Minh as it would become known to the world, was a Communist front organization founded by Ho Chi Minh in 1941 to organize resistance against French colonial rule and occupying Japanese forces.
- Oct 11 1976 – George Washington's appointment, posthumously, to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States by congressional joint resolution Public Law 94-479 is approved by President Gerald R. Ford.
- Oct 11 1986 – Cold War: Following up on their successful November 1985 summit meeting in Geneva, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Reykjavik, Iceland, to continue discussions about curbing their intermediate missile arsenals in Europe. Just when it appeared that agreement might be reached, the talks fell apart amid accusations and recriminations, and U.S.-Soviet relations took a giant step backwards.
- Oct 12 1776 – American Revolution: British Generals Henry Clinton and William Howe lead a force of 4,000 troops aboard some 90 flat-boats up New York's East River toward Throg's Neck, a peninsula in Westchester County, in an effort to encircle General George Washington and the Patriot force stationed at Harlem Heights.
- Oct 12 1861 – Civil War: Confederate ironclad Manassas attacks and rams Union's ironclad Richmond. Manassas suffered the loss of her iron prow and smokestack(s) and had one of her two engines unseated from its mounts, temporarily putting it out of commission. She managed to retire under heavy fire.
- Oct 12 1915 – WWI: British nurse Edith Cavell is executed by a German firing squad for helping Allied soldiers escape from Belgium



- Oct 12 1933 – The United States Army Disciplinary Barracks on Alcatraz Island, is acquired by the United States Department of Justice
- Oct 12 1942 – WW2: Battle of Cape Esperance (Guadalcanal) – Japanese ships retreat after their defeat with the Japanese commander, Aritomo Goto dying from wounds suffered in the battle and two Japanese destroyers sunk by Allied air attack.
- Oct 12 1943 – WW2: The U.S. Fifth Army begins an assault crossing of the Volturno River in Italy.
- Oct 12 1945 - WW2: Desmond Doss is the first conscientious objector to receive the U.S. Medal of Honor.
- Oct 12 1960 - Cold War: Nikita Khrushchev pounds his shoe on a desk at United Nations General Assembly meeting to protest a Philippine assertion of Soviet Union colonial policy being conducted in Eastern Europe.



- Oct 12 1967 – Vietnam: US Secretary of State Dean Rusk states during a news conference that proposals by the U.S. Congress for peace initiatives are futile because of North Vietnam's opposition.
- Oct 12 1972 – Racial violence flares aboard U.S. Navy ships. Forty six sailors are injured in a race riot involving more than 100 sailors on the aircraft carrier USS *Kitty Hawk* enroute to her station in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam. The incident broke out when a black sailor was summoned for questioning regarding an altercation that took place during the crew's liberty in Subic Bay (in the Philippines). The sailor refused to make a statement and he and his friends started a brawl that resulted in sixty sailors being injured during the fighting. Eventually 26 men, all black, were charged with assault and rioting and were ordered to appear before a court-martial in San Diego.
- Oct 12 2000 – The USS Cole is badly damaged in Aden, Yemen, by two Al-Qaeda terrorists' suicide bombers, killing 17 crew members and wounding at least 39.
- Oct 13 1775 – American Revolution: The US Navy was established when the Continental Congress authorizes construction of two warships.
- Oct 13 1812 – War of 1812: Battle of Queenston Heights – A Canadian and British army defeats the Americans who have tried to invade Canada.

- Oct 13 1915 – WWI: The Battle for the Hohenzollern Redoubt marks the end of the Battle of Loos in northern France.
- Oct 13 1942 – WW2: In the first of four attacks two Japanese battleships sail down the slot and shell Henderson field on Guadalcanal in an unsuccessful effort to destroy the American Cactus Air Force.
- Oct 13 1943 – WW2: The government of Italy declares war on its former Axis partner Germany and joins the battle on the side of the Allies.
- Oct 14 1773 – American Revolution: The United Kingdom's East India Company tea ships' cargo are burned at Annapolis, Maryland.
- Oct 14 1863 – Civil War: Battle of Bristoe Station – Confederate General Robert E. Lee attempts to drive the Union army out of Virginia but fails when an outnumbered Union force repels the attacking Rebels at the Battle of Bristoe Station.
- Oct 14 1918 – WWI: Among the German wounded in the Belgium Ypres Salient is Corporal Adolf Hitler, temporarily blinded by a British gas shell and evacuated to a German military hospital at Pasewalk, in Pomerania.
- Oct 14 1943 – WW2: U.S. 8th Air Force loses 60 B-17 Flying Fortresses during an assault on Schweinfurt Germany.
- Oct 14 1944 – WW2: German Gen. Erwin Rommel, nicknamed “the Desert Fox,” is given the option of facing a public trial for treason, as a co-conspirator in the plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, or taking cyanide. He chooses the latter.
- Oct 14 1952 – Korea: Battle of Hill 598 (Sniper Ridge) – 7th Infantry Division battles the Chinese near Kumhwa, the right leg of the Iron Triangle. The operation is a failure and the UNC never allowed Eighth Army to undertake a similar sized offensive for the remainder of the war
- Oct 14 1962 – Cold War: The Cuban Missile Crisis begins bringing the United States and the Soviet Union to the brink of nuclear conflict. Photographs taken by a high-altitude U-2 spy plane offered incontrovertible evidence that Soviet-made medium-range missiles in Cuba—capable of carrying nuclear warheads—were now stationed 90 miles off the American coastline.
- Oct 14 1964 – Vietnam: Nikita Khrushchev is ousted as both premier of the Soviet Union and chief of the Communist Party after 10 years in power. He was succeeded as head of the Communist Party by his former protégé Leonid Brezhnev, who would eventually become the chief of state as well. The new Soviet leadership increased military aid to the North Vietnamese without trying to persuade them to attempt a negotiated end to hostilities. With this support and no external pressure to negotiate, the North Vietnamese leadership was free to carry on the war as they saw fit.
- Oct 14 1968 – Vietnam: U.S. Defense Department officials announce that the Army and Marines will be sending about 24,000 men back to Vietnam for involuntary second tours because of the length of the war, high turnover of personnel resulting from the one year of duty, and the tight supply of experienced soldiers. This decision had an extremely negative impact on troop morale and the combat readiness of U.S. forces elsewhere in the world as troops were transferred to meet the increased personnel requirements in Vietnam.
- Oct 15 1780 – American Revolution: British retreat from Middleburgh - A combined force of 1,000 British regulars, Hessians, Loyalists and Indians, led by Loyalist Sir John Johnson and Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant, attempts an unsuccessful attack upon Middleburgh (or Middle Fort), New York. Only 200 Continental soldiers under Major Melancthon Woolsey were defending the fort, and unknown to the British, the Continentals were low on ammunition. In their ignorance of the Patriots’ weakness, the Loyalist forces retreated in the direction of the Schoharie Valley, contenting themselves with destroying everything in their path and continuing the civil war raging in upstate New York.
- Oct 15 1863 – Civil War: The H.L. Hunley, the first submarine to sink a ship, sinks during a test, killing its inventor, Horace L. Hunley.
- Oct 15 1864 – Civil War: Battle of Glasgow – Ends with the surrender of Glasgow, Missouri, and its Union garrison, to the Confederacy. Casualties and losses: US 400 - CSA 50.

- Oct 15 1917– WWI: Mata Hari, the archetype of the seductive female spy, is executed for espionage by a French firing squad at Vincennes outside of Paris. There is some evidence that she acted as a German spy, and for a time as a double agent for the French, but the Germans had written her off as an ineffective agent whose pillow talk had produced little intelligence of value. Her military trial was riddled with bias and circumstantial evidence, and it is probable that French authorities trumped her up as “the greatest woman spy of the century” as a distraction for the huge losses the French army was suffering on the western front. Her only real crimes may have been an elaborate stage fallacy and a weakness for men in uniform.



- Oct 15 1946 – PostWW2: Herman Goering, commander in chief of the Luftwaffe, president of the Reichstag, head of the Gestapo, prime minister of Prussia, chief forester of the Reich, chief liquidator of sequestered estates, supreme head of the National Weather Bureau, and Hitler’s designated successor dies by his own hand. He was tried at Nuremberg and charged with various crimes against humanity. Despite a vigorous attempt at self-acquittal, he was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, but before he could be executed, he committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide tablet he had hidden from his guards.
- Oct 15 1965 – Vietnam: The Catholic Worker Movement stages an anti-war rally in Manhattan including a public burning of a draft card; the first such act to result in arrest under a new amendment to the Selective Service Act.



David J. Miller, 24, first person arrested and convicted under P.L. 89-152 served 22 months for burning his card

- Oct 15 1966 – Vietnam: U.S. troops move into Tay Ninh Province near the Cambodian border, about 50 miles north of Saigon, and sweep the area in search of Viet Cong as part of Operation Attleboro, which had begun in September.

- Oct 15 1969 – Vietnam: The Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam is held in Washington DC and across the US. Over 2 million demonstrate nationally; about 250,000 in the nation’s capital.

[Source: Various Sep 2016 ++]
