



Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 15 MAR

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

- Mar 01 1916 – WWI: Germany begins attacking ships in the Atlantic.
- Mar 01 1941 – WW2: Bulgaria signs the Tripartite Pact under threat of a German invasion, allying itself with the Axis powers
- Mar 01 1942 – WW2: Three day Battle of Java Sea ends. US suffers a major naval defeat.
- Mar 01 1944 – WW2: American and Australian troops win the Battle of Sio (5 Dec – 1 Mar) in New Guinea. Casualties and losses: US/AUS 169 – JP 3695.
- Mar 01 1945 – WW2: U.S. infantry regiment captures Mönchengladbach, Germany.
- Mar 01 1950 – Cold War: Klaus Fuchs is convicted of spying for the Soviet Union by disclosing top secret atomic bomb data.
- Mar 01 1954 – Cold War: The Castle Bravo, a 15–megaton hydrogen bomb, is detonated on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, resulting in the worst radioactive contamination ever caused by the United State.



The Shrimp (code name Castle Bravo) device in its shot cab

- Mar 01 1961 – Cold War: President John F. Kennedy issues an executive order establishing the Peace Corps. It proved to be one of the most innovative and highly publicized Cold War programs set up by the United States.
- Mar 01 1965 – Vietnam: Ambassador Maxwell Taylor informs South Vietnamese Premier Phan Huy Quat that the United States is preparing to send 3,500 U.S. Marines to Vietnam to protect the U.S. airbase at Da Nang.
- Mar 01 2002 – U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda begins in eastern Afghanistan lasting until 6 MAR. Casualties and losses: U.S. 97 - Taliban 23 confirmed KIA.

- Mar 02 1776 – American Revolution: Patriot militia units arrest the Royal Governor of Georgia James Wright and attempt to prevent capture of supply ships in the Battle of the Rice Boats.
- Mar 02 1917 – WWI: Wilson signed the Jones-Shafroth Act, under which Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory and Puerto Ricans were granted statutory citizenship. As citizens, Puerto Ricans could now join the U.S. Army, but few chose to do so. After Wilson signed a compulsory military service act two months later, however, 20,000 Puerto Ricans were eventually drafted to serve during World War I.
- Mar 02 1836 – Texas Revolution: Declaration of independence of the Republic of Texas from Mexico.
- Mar 02 1865 – Civil War: Battle of Waynesboro, Virginia - Union General George Custer's troops rout Confederate General Jubal Early's force, bringing an end to fighting in the Shenandoah Valley.



- Mar 02 1941 – WW2: First German military units enter Bulgaria after it joined the Axis Pact.
- Mar 02 1943 – WW2: Battle of the Bismarck Sea – U.S. and Australian land-based planes begin an offensive against a convoy of Japanese ships in the Bismarck Sea, in the western Pacific. U.S. and Australian forces over two days of bombing sink destroyed 8 Japanese troop transports and 4 Japanese destroyers. More than 3,000 Japanese troops and sailors drowned as a consequence, and the supplies sunk with their ships.
- Mar 02 1965 – Vietnam: The US and South Vietnamese Air Force begin Operation Rolling Thunder, a sustained bombing campaign against North Vietnam that eventually became the most intense air/ground battle waged during the Cold War period.
- Mar 02 1967 – Vietnam: Senator Robert Kennedy (D-NY) proposes a three-point plan to help end the war. The plan included suspension of the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and the gradual withdrawal of U.S. and North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam with replacement by an international force. Secretary of State Dean Rusk rejected Kennedy's proposal because he believed that the North Vietnamese would never agree to withdraw their troops.
- Mar 02 1969 – Cold War: In a dramatic confirmation of the growing rift between the two most powerful communist nations in the world, troops from the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China fire on each other at a border outpost on the Ussuri River in the eastern region of the USSR, north of Vladivostok. In the years following this incident, the United States used the Soviet-Chinese schism to its advantage in its Cold War diplomacy.
- Mar 02 1991 – Gulf War: Battle at Rumaila Oil Field brings end to the 1991 Gulf War.

- Mar 02 2002 – Iraq War: U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda begins (ending on March 19 after killing 500 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters, with 11 Western troop fatalities).
- Mar 02 2004 – Iraq War: Al Qaeda carries out the Ashoura Massacre killing 170 and wounding over 500.



- Mar 03 1776 – American Revolution: Silas Deane, Connecticut delegate to the Continental Congress, leaves for France on a secret mission on this day in 1776. He was, instructed to meet with French Foreign Minister Charles Gravier, comte de Vergennes, to stress America's need for military stores and assure the French that the colonies were moving toward total separation.
- Mar 03 1776 – American Revolution: The first amphibious landing of the United States Marine Corps begins the Battle of Nassau.
- Mar 03 1779 – American Revolution: The Continental Army is routed at the Battle of Brier Creek near Savannah, Georgia. Casualties and losses: US 377 – GB 16.
- Mar 03 1863 – Civil War: The U.S. Congress passed a conscription act that produced the first wartime draft of U.S. citizens in American history. The act called for registration of all males between the ages of 20 and 45, including aliens with the intention of becoming citizens, by 1 APR. Exemptions from the draft could be bought for \$300 or by finding a substitute draftee. This clause led to bloody draft riots in New York City, where protesters were outraged that exemptions were effectively granted only to the wealthiest U.S. citizens.
- Mar 03 1918 – WWI: Germany, Austria and Russia sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ending Russia's involvement in World War I, and leading to the independence of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.
- Mar 03 1931 – The United States adopts The Star-Spangled Banner as its national anthem.
- Mar 03 1942 – WW2: Ten Japanese warplanes raid the town of Broome Western Australia killing more than 100 people.
- Mar 03 1942 – WW2: USS Perch (SS-176) scuttled after severe damage from Japanese destroyers Ushio and Sazanami. 60 POWs, 6 later died
- Mar 03 1943 – WW2: In London, England, 173 people are killed in a crush while trying to enter an air-raid shelter at Bethnal Green tube station.
- Mar 03 1945 – WW2: The RAF accidentally bombs the Bezuidenhout neighborhood in The Hague, Netherlands, killing 511 people.
- Mar 03 1945 – WW2: The American and Filipino troops liberate Manila, Philippines after 30 days of fighting.

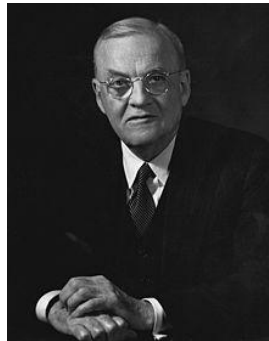
- Mar 03 1945 – WW2: Finland, under increasing pressure from both the United States and the Soviet Union, finally declares war on its former partner, Germany.
- Mar 03 1945 – Cold War: In a 6-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds a New York state law that prohibits communists from teaching in public schools. Coming at the height of the Red Scare in the United States, the Supreme Court decision was additional evidence that many Americans were concerned about possible subversive communist activity in their country.
- Mar 03 1965 – Vietnam: More than 30 U.S. Air Force jets strike targets along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. Since such raids had become common knowledge and were being reported in the American media, the U.S. State Department felt compelled to announce that these controversial missions were authorized by the powers granted to President Johnson in the August 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution.
- Mar 03 1971 – Vietnam: The U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) departs South Vietnam. The Special Forces were formed to organize and train guerrilla bands behind enemy lines.
- Mar 03 1980 – The USS Nautilus is decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register.
- Mar 03 1994 – Somalia: American soldiers completely withdraw 28 days earlier than expected. Other nations, such as Belgium, France and Sweden, also decided to withdraw at this time.
- Mar 04 1776 – American Revolution: The Americans capture "Dorchester Heights" dominating the port of Boston Massachusetts.
- Mar 04 1776 – American Revolution: The Continental Army fortifies Dorchester Heights with cannon, leading the British troops to abandon the Siege of Boston.



- Mar 04 1814 – War of 1812: Americans defeat the British at the Battle of Longwoods near Wardsville, in present-day Southwest Middlesex, Ontario. Casualties and losses: US 7 – UK 67.
- Mar 04 1941 – WW2: Operation Claymore. The United Kingdom launches its first large scale British Commando raid on Norway's Lofoten Islands. It proved highly destructive of its target but ultimately a failure in achieving its objective, the capture of an Enigma decoding machine. Casualties and losses: UK 1 – Ger 228 + 10 ships sunk.
- Mar 04 1943 – WW2: The Battle of the Bismarck Sea in the South West Pacific comes to an end. Casualties and losses: US/Aus 13 + 2 Bombers & 4 Fighters – JP 2,890 + 8 Transport, 5 Destroyers, & 20 Fighters.
- Mar 04 1944 – WW2: The U.S. Eighth Air Force launches the first American bombing raid against the German capital. The British Royal Air Force (RAF) had been conducting night raids against Berlin and other German cities since NOV 1943, suffering losses at increasingly heavy

rates. The RAF flew 35 major raids between November 1943 and March 1944 and lost 1,047 aircraft, with an even greater number damaged.

- Mar 04 1954 – Cold War: Speaking before the 10th Inter-American Conference, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles warns that “international communism” is making inroads in the Western Hemisphere and asks the nations of Latin America to condemn this danger. Dulles’s speech was part of a series of actions designed to put pressure on the leftist government of Guatemala, a nation in which U.S. policymakers feared communism had established a beachhead.



John Foster Dulles

- Mar 04 1968 – Vietnam: In a draft memorandum to the president, the Ad Hoc Task Force on Vietnam advises that the administration send 22,000 more troops to Vietnam, but make deployment of the additional 185,000 men previously requested by Gen. William Westmoreland (senior U.S. commander in Vietnam) contingent on future developments.
- Mar 04 2002 – Afghanistan: Seven American Special Operations Forces soldiers are killed as they attempt to infiltrate the Shahi Kot Valley on a low-flying helicopter reconnaissance mission.
- Mar 05 1770 – American Revolution: Boston Massacre. British troops kill 5 American and a boy a in crowd. Crispus Attacus becomes 1st black man to die for American freedom. The event contributes to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War five years later. At a subsequent trial the soldiers are defended by future U.S. president John Adams.



- Mar 05 1927 – 1,000 US marines land in China to protect American property
- Mar 05 1942 – WW2: US Navy's Mobile Construction Battalions "SEABEES" officially formed and placed in action in New Caledonia an island in the southwest Pacific as they landed and began construction of base facilities.
- Mar 05 1944 – WW2: The Red Army begins the Uman-Botoshany Offensive in the western Ukrainian SSR. Casualties and losses: SU 270,000 – Ger 130,000.

- Mar 05 1945 – WW2: Allies bomb The Hague, Netherlands. During the 128 raids casualties amounted to 884 killed and a further 631 wounded.
- Mar 05 1945 – WW2: US 7th Army Corps capture Cologne, Germany.
- Mar 05 1946 – Ho Chi Minh signs an agreement with France which recognizes Vietnam as an autonomous state in the Indochinese Federation and the French Union.
- Mar 05 1946 – Cold War: In one of the most famous orations of the Cold War period, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill condemns the Soviet Union’s policies in Europe and declares, “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent.” Churchill’s speech is considered one of the opening volleys announcing the beginning of the Cold War.
- Mar 05 1964 – Vietnam: The Joint Chiefs of Staff order a U.S. Air Force air commando training advisory team to Thailand to train Lao pilots in counterinsurgency tactics.
- Mar 06 1836 – Texas Revolution: Battle of the Alamo – After a thirteen day siege by an army of 3,000 Mexican troops, the 187 Texas volunteers, including frontiersman Davy Crockett and colonel Jim Bowie, defending the Alamo are killed and the fort is captured. Mexican losses are about 600.



The Alamo, as drawn in 1854.

- Mar 06 1857 – Civil War: Dred Scott Decision - United States Supreme Court issues a decision affirming the right of slave owners to take their slaves into the Western territories, thereby negating the doctrine of popular sovereignty and severely undermining the platform of the newly created Republican Party. The decision inflamed regional tensions, which burned for another four years before exploding into the Civil War.
- Mar 06 1865 – Civil War: Battle of Natural Bridge, Florida. Casualties and losses: US 148 - CSA 26.
- Mar 06 1916 – WWI: During a punishing snowstorm, the German army launches a new attack against French forces on the high ground of Mort-Homme, on the left bank of the Meuse River, near the fortress city of Verdun, France.
- Mar 06 1943 – WW2: Battle at Medenine (a.k.a. Operation Capri) North–Africa: Rommel’s assault attack which was abandoned at dusk on the same day after the loss of 52 German tanks.
- Mar 06 1944 – WW2: U.S. heavy bombers staged the first full–scale American raid on Berlin.
- Mar 06 1945 – WW2: Cologne Germany is captured by American Troops.

- Mar 06 1945 – WW2: Members of the Dutch Resistance who were attempting to hijack a truck in Apeldoorn, Holland, ambush Lt. Gen. Hanns Rauter, an SS officer. During the following week, the German SS executed 263 Dutch in retaliation.
- Mar 06 1971 – Vietnam: Operation Lam Son 719 continues as reinforced South Vietnamese forces push into Tchepone, a major enemy supply center located on Route 9 in Laos. The base was deserted and almost completely destroyed as a result of American bombing raids.
- Mar 06 1991 – Following Iraq's capitulation in the Persian Gulf conflict Pres Bush told Congress that "aggression is defeated. The war is over"
- Mar 07 1862 – Civil War: Union forces under General Samuel Curtis clash with the army of General Earl Van Dorn at the Battle of Pea Ridge (also called the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern), in northwest Arkansas. The following day, the battle ended in defeat for the Confederates. Casualties and losses: US 1,384 - CSA 2,000. For a reenactment of the engagement go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMZN8fCiGyI>.



- Mar 07 1936 — WW2 (Prelude to): Nazi leader Adolf Hitler violates the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Pact by sending German military forces into the Rhineland, a demilitarized zone along the Rhine River in western Germany.
- Mar 07 1941 — WW2: Prime Minister Winston Churchill diverted troops from Egypt and sent 58,000 British and Aussie troops to occupy the Olympus-Vermion line. But the Brits would be blown out of the Pelopponesus Peninsula when Hitler's forces invaded on the ground and from the air in April. Thousands of British and Australian forces were captured there and on Crete, where German paratroopers landed in May.
- Mar 07 1942 – WW2: Japanese troops land on New Guinea.
- Mar 07 1945 – WW2: American troops seize the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany.



- Mar 07 1950 – Cold War: Just one week after British physicist Klaus Fuchs was sentenced to 14 years in prison for his role in passing information on the atomic bomb to the Russians, the Soviet

Union issues a terse statement denying any knowledge of Fuchs or his activities. Despite the Russian disclaimer, Fuchs' arrest and conviction led to the uncovering of a network of individuals in the United States and Great Britain who had allegedly engaged in spying activities for the Soviet Union during World War II.

- Mar 07 1951 – Korean War: Operation Ripper - United Nations troops led by General Matthew Ridgeway begin an assault against Chinese forces in an offensive to straighten out the U.N. front lines against the Chinese.
- Mar 07 1966 – Vietnam: In the heaviest air raids since the bombing began in February 1965, U.S. Air Force and Navy planes fly an estimated 200 sorties against North Vietnam. The objectives of the raids included an oil storage area 60 miles southeast of Dien Bien Phu and a staging area 60 miles northwest of Vinh.
- Mar 07 1967 – Vietnam: The largest South Korean operation to date starts, forming a link-up of two Korean division areas of operations along the central coastal area of South Vietnam.
- Mar 07 1968 – Vietnam: The Battle of Saigon begins on the day of the Tet Offensive ends.



- Mar 07 1968 – Vietnam: The United States and South Vietnamese military begin Operation Truong Cong Dinh to root out Viet Cong forces from the area surrounding My Tho.
- Mar 07 1971 – Vietnam: A thousand U.S. planes bomb Cambodia and Laos.
- Mar 07 1972 – Vietnam: In the biggest air battle in Southeast Asia in three years, U.S. jets battle five North Vietnamese MiGs and shoot one down 170 miles north of the Demilitarized Zone. The 86 U.S. air raids over North Vietnam in the first two months of this year equaled the total for all of 1971.
- Mar 08 1777 – American Revolution: Regiments from Ansbach and Bayreuth Germany, sent to support Great Britain in the War, mutiny in the town of Ochsenfurt.
- Mar 08 1782 – American Revolution: Gnadenhütten massacre - Ninety-six Native Americans in Gnadenhutten, Ohio, who had converted to Christianity are killed by Pennsylvania militiamen in retaliation for raids carried out by other Indians. This infamous attack on non-combatants led to a loss of faith in the Patriots by their Indian allies and reprisals upon Patriot captives in Indian custody.
- Mar 08 1862 – Civil War: On the second day of the Battle of Pea Ridge Confederate force including some Indian troops under General Earl Van Dorn surprise Union troop but the Union troops win the battle. Casualties & losses: US 1384 - CSA 2000.
- Mar 08 1862 - Civil War: The iron-clad CSS Virginia (formerly USS Merrimack) wreaks havoc on a Yankee squadron off Hampton Roads, Virginia.
- Mar 08 1942 – WW2: Japanese troops capture Rangoon Burma.
- Mar 08 1942 – WW2: The Dutch ended all resistance after two months of fighting to the superior Japanese forces surrendering on Java. Java's independence of colonial control became a final fact of history in 1950, when it became part of the newly independent Republic of Indonesia.

- Mar 08 1943 – WW2: Japanese forces attack American troops on Hill 700 in Bougainville. The battle will last five days.



- Mar 08 1965 – Vietnam: More than 4,000 Marines land at Da Nang in South Vietnam and become the first U.S. combat troops in Vietnam
- Mar 09 1781 – American Revolution: Battle of Pensacola - After successfully capturing British positions in Louisiana and Mississippi, Spanish General Bernardo de Galvez, commander of the Spanish forces in North America, turns his attention to the British-occupied city of Pensacola, Florida. General Galvez and a Spanish naval force of more than 40 ships and 3,500 men landed at Santa Rosa Island and begin a two-month siege of British occupying forces.
- Mar 09 1847 – Mexican American War: Siege of Veracruz. - U.S. forces under General Winfield Scott invade Mexico three miles south of Vera Cruz. Encountering little resistance from the Mexicans massed in the fortified city of Vera Cruz, by nightfall the last of Scott's 10,000 men came ashore without the loss of a single life. It was the largest amphibious landing in U.S. history and not surpassed until World War II. In the actual siege Casualties & losses: US 60 - Mex 400
- Mar 09 1862 – Civil War: One of the most famous naval battles in American history occurs as two ironclads, the U.S.S. Monitor and the C.S.S. Virginia fight to a draw off Hampton Roads, Virginia. The ships pounded each other all morning but their armor plates easily deflected the cannon shots, signaling a new era of steam-powered iron ships.
- Mar 09 1916 – WWI: Germany declares war on Portugal, who earlier that year honored its alliance with Great Britain by seizing German ships anchored in Lisbon's harbor.
- Mar 09 1916 – Several hundred Mexican guerrillas under the command of Francisco "Pancho" Villa cross the U.S.-Mexican border and attack the small border town of Columbus, New Mexico. Seventeen Americans were killed in the raid, and the center of town was burned. It was unclear whether Villa personally participated in the attack, but President Woodrow Wilson ordered the U.S. Army into Mexico to capture the rebel leader dead or alive.



- Mar 09 1944 – WW2: Japanese troops counter-attack American forces on Hill 700 in Bougainville in a battle that would last five days.
- Mar 09 1945 – WW2: Operation Meeting House - U.S. B-29 bombers launched incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo Japan. Resulting conflagration kills more than 100,000 people, mostly civilians. It was later estimated to be the single most destructive bombing raid in history



Charred remains of Japanese civilians after the firebombing of Tokyo

- Mar 09 1966 – Vietnam: The North Vietnamese capture a Green Beret camp at Ashau Valley.
- Mar 09 1968 – Vietnam: General William Westmoreland asks for 206,000 more troops in Vietnam.
- Mar 09 1970 – Vietnam: The U.S. Marines turn over control of the five northernmost provinces in South Vietnam to the U.S. Army. The Marines had been responsible for this area since they first arrived in South Vietnam in 1965. The change in responsibility for this area was part of President Richard Nixon's initiative to reduce U.S. troop levels as the South Vietnamese accepted more responsibility for the fighting
- Mar 10 1848 – Mexican*American War: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is ratified by the United States Senate, ending the War.
- Mar 10 1917 – WWI: Less than two weeks after their victorious recapture of the strategically placed city of Kut-al-Amara on the Tigris River in Mesopotamia, British troops under the regional command of Sir Frederick Stanley Maude bear down on Baghdad, causing their Turkish opponents to begin a full-scale evacuation of the city that evening.
- Mar 10 1917 – WW2: U.S. Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles, after a meeting with Adolf Hitler in Berlin, visits London to discuss a peacemaking proposal with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to prevent a widening of the European war.
- Mar 10 1953 – Korean War: North Korean gunners at Wonsan fire on the USS Missouri. The ship responds by firing 998 rounds at the enemy position.



- Mar 10 1968 – Vietnam War: Battle of Lima Site 85, concluding the 11th with largest single ground combat loss of United States Air Force members (12) during that war.
- Mar 10 1970 – Vietnam War: The U.S. Army accuses Capt. Ernest Medina and four other soldiers of committing crimes at My Lai in March 1968. The charges ranged from premeditated murder to rape and the “maiming” of a suspect under interrogation. Medina was the company commander of Lt. William Calley and other soldiers charged with murder and numerous crimes at My Lai 4 in Song My village.

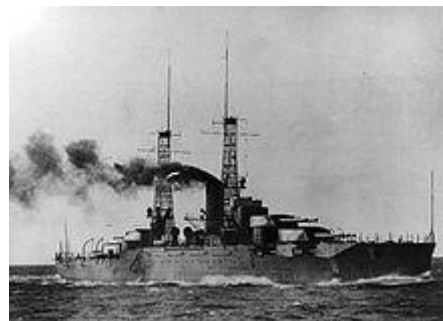


William Calley



Capt. Ernest Medina

- Mar 10 1975 – Vietnam: The North Vietnamese surround and attack the city of Ban Me Thuot, as heavy fighting erupts in the Central Highlands. This action, initiated in late January 1975, just two years after a cease-fire was established by the Paris Peace Accords, was part of what the North Vietnamese called Campaign 275. The offensive will end with total victory in Vietnam.
- Mar 11 1863 – Civil War: Union troops under General Ulysses S. Grant give up their preparations to take Vicksburg after failing to pass Fort Pemberton north of Vicksburg.
- Mar 11 1865 – Civil War: Union General William Sherman and his forces occupy Fayetteville N.C.
- Mar 11 1916 – USS Nevada (BB-36) is commissioned. The first US Navy "super-dreadnought".



Nevada during her **running trials** in early 1916

- Mar 11 1918 – WWI: Private Albert Gitchell of the U.S. Army reports to the hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, complaining of the cold-like symptoms of sore throat, fever and headache. By noon, over 100 of his fellow soldiers had reported similar symptoms, marking what are believed to be the first cases in the historic influenza epidemic of 1918. The flu would eventually kill 675,000 Americans and more than 20 million people
- Mar 11 1941 – WW2: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act into law, allowing American-built war supplies to be shipped to the Allies on loan.

- Mar 11 1942 – WWI: Following President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s orders, Gen. Douglas MacArthur pulls out of the Philippines, as the American defense of the islands collapses.
- Mar 11 1945 – WW2: The Imperial Japanese Navy attempts a large-scale kamikaze attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet anchored at Ulithi atoll in Operation Tan No. 2.
- Mar 11 1945 – WW2: The Empire of Japan established the Empire of Vietnam, a short-lived puppet state, with Bảo Đại as its ruler.
- Mar 11 1946 – WW2 Postwar: Rudolf Höss, the first commandant of Auschwitz concentration camp, is captured by British troops.
- Mar 11 1967 – Vietnam: U.S. 1st Infantry Division troops engage in one of the heaviest battles of Operation Junction City. The fierce fighting resulted in 210 reported North Vietnamese casualties.
- Mar 12 1864 – Civil War: The Red River Campaign – One of the biggest military fiascos of the Civil War begins as a combined Union force of infantry and riverboats starts moving up the Red River in Louisiana. The month-long campaign was poorly managed and achieved none of the objectives set forth by Union commanders.
- Mar 12 1920 – USS H-1 Seawolf (SS-28) foundered and sunk off Santa Margarita Island, California. 4 died.



- Mar 12 1938 – WW2: German troops march into Austria to annex the German-speaking nation for the Third Reich.
- Mar 12 1947 – Cold War: In a dramatic speech to a joint session of Congress, President Harry S. Truman asks for U.S. assistance for Greece and Turkey to forestall communist domination of the two nations. Historians have often cited Truman’s address, which came to be known as the Truman Doctrine, as the official declaration of the Cold War to help stem the spread of Communism.
- Mar 12 1972 – Vietnam: The last remnants of the First Australian Task Force withdraw from Vietnam. The Australian government had first sent troops to Vietnam in 1964 with a small aviation detachment and an engineer civic action team.
- Mar 13 1862 – Civil War: The U.S. federal government forbids all Union army officers to return fugitive slaves, thus effectively annulling the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and setting the stage for the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Mar 13 1865 – Civil War: With the main Rebel armies facing long odds against must larger Union armies, the Confederacy, in a desperate measure, reluctantly approves the use of black troops.

- Mar 13 1915 – WWI: Battle of Neuve Chapelle - British forces end their three-day assault on the German trenches near the village of Neuve Chapelle in northern France, the first offensive. Allied forces captured a small salient 2,000 yards wide and 1,200 yards deep, along with 1,200 German prisoners, at the cost of 7,000 British and 4,200 Indian casualties.
- Mar 13 1942 – WW2: The Quartermaster Corps (QMC) of the United States Army begins training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or “K-9 Corps.” Well over a million dogs served on both sides during World War I, carrying messages along the complex network of trenches and providing some measure of psychological comfort to the soldiers.



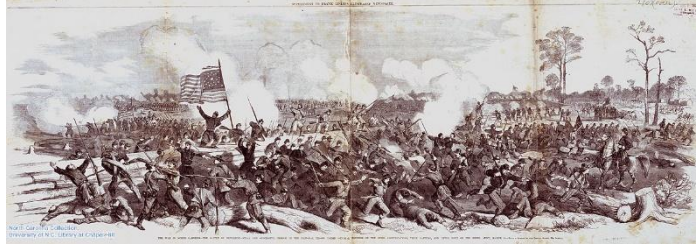
- Mar 13 1943 – WW2: In Bougainville, Japanese troops end their assault on American forces at Hill 700.
- Mar 13 1943 – WW2: The Holocaust: German forces liquidate the Jewish ghetto in Kraków, Poland sending most of its inhabitants to Belzec extermination camp & Plaszów slave-labor camp, and Auschwitz concentration camp for extermination.



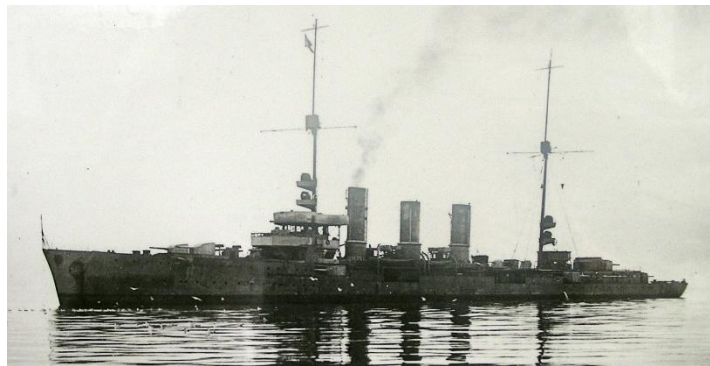
Deportation of Jews from the Ghetto, March 1943

- Mar 13 1943 – Cold War: Alliance for Progress - President John F. Kennedy proposes a 10-year, multibillion-dollar aid program for Latin America. The program came to be known as the was designed to improve U.S. relations with Latin America, which had been severely damaged in recent years.
- Mar 13 1944 – WW2: Britain announces that all travel between Ireland and the United Kingdom is suspended, the result of the Irish government’s refusal to expel Axis-power diplomats within its borders.
- Mar 13 1954 – Vietnam: A force of 40,000 Viet Minh with heavy artillery surround 15,000 French troops at Dien Bien Phu. French General Henri Navarre had positioned these forces 200 miles behind enemy lines in a remote area adjacent to the Laotian border. He hoped to draw the communists into a set-piece battle in which he hoped superior French firepower would destroy the enemy. He underestimated the enemy

- Mar 14 1780 – American Revolution: Spanish forces capture Fort Charlotte in Mobile, Alabama, the last British frontier post capable of threatening New Orleans in Spanish Louisiana.
- Mar 14 1862 – Civil War: Battle of New Bern - Union General Ambrose Burnside captures North Carolina's second largest city and closes another port through which the Confederates could slip supplies.



- Mar 14 1864 – Civil War: Union troops occupy Fort de Russy, Louisiana.
- Mar 14 1915 – WWI: Cornered off the coast of Chile by the Royal Navy after fleeing the Battle of the Falkland Islands, the German light cruiser SMS Dresden is abandoned and scuttled by her crew.



- Mar 14 1916 – WWI: Battle of Verdun – German attack on Mort–Homme ridge West of Verdun.
- Mar 14 1947 – The United States signs a 99–year lease on naval bases in the Philippines.
- Mar 14 1943 – WW2: German troops re-enter Kharkov, the second largest city in the Ukraine, which had changed hands several times in the battle between the USSR and the invading German forces.
- Mar 14 1945 – WW2: The R.A.F.'s first operational use of the Grand Slam bomb, Bielefeld, Germany.
- Mar 14 1951 – Korean War: U.N. forces recapture Seoul for the second time during the Korean War.
- Mar 14 1965 – Vietnam: Twenty-four South Vietnamese Air Force planes, led by Vice-Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky and supported by U.S. jets, bomb the barracks and depots on Con Co (“Tiger”) Island, 20 miles off the coast of North Vietnam. The next day, 100 U.S. Air Force jets and carrier-based bombers struck the ammunition depot at Phu Qui, 100 miles south of Hanoi. This was the second set of raids in Operation Rolling Thunder and the first in which U.S. planes used napalm.

- Mar 14 1969 – Vietnam: At a news conference, President Richard Nixon says there is no prospect for a U.S. troop reduction in the foreseeable future because of the ongoing enemy offensive. Nixon stated that the prospects for withdrawal would hinge on the level of enemy activity, progress in the Paris peace talks, and the ability of the South Vietnamese to defend themselves. Despite these public comments, Nixon and his advisers were secretly discussing U.S. troop withdrawals.
- Mar 15 1781 – American Revolution: Battle of Guilford Court House, SC 1,900 British troops under General Charles Cornwallis defeat an American force numbering 4,400. Casualties and losses: US 1,272 - GB 538.
- Mar 15 1783 - In an emotional speech in Newburgh, New York, George Washington asks his officers not to support the Newburgh Conspiracy. The plea is successful and the threatened coup d'état never takes place.
- Mar 15 1864 - Civil War: The Red River Campaign - U.S. Navy fleet arrives at Alexandria, Louisiana.
- Mar 15 1916 – President Woodrow Wilson sends 4,800 United States troops over the U.S.– Mexico border to pursue Pancho Villa.
- Mar 15 1939 – WW2: Hitler's forces invade and occupy Czechoslovakia—a nation sacrificed on the altar of the Munich Pact, which was a vain attempt to prevent Germany's imperial aims. Czechoslovakia ceases to exist.
- Mar 15 1943 – WW2: Third Battle of Kharkov - The last great victory of German arms in the eastern front. In a series of battles the German counterstrike led to the destruction of approximately 52 Soviet divisions and the recapture of the cities of Kharkov and Belgorod. Casualties and losses: SU 86,469 – Ger 11,500
- Mar 15 1943 – WW2: USS Triton (SS-201) sunk either by Japanese destroyer Satsuki or submarine chaser Ch 24 north of Admiralty Islands. 74 killed.
- Mar 15 1944 – WW2: Battle of Monte Cassino - Cassino, Italy is destroyed by Allied bombing.



The rebuilt Abbey of Monte Cassino and Monte Cassino in ruins after Allied bombing

- Mar 15 1965 – Vietnam: Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff, reports on his recent visit to Vietnam to President Lyndon B. Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. He admitted that the recent air raids ordered by President Johnson had not affected the course of the war and said he would like to assign an American division to hold coastal enclaves and defend the Central Highlands.
- Mar 15 1973 – Vietnam: President Nixon hints that the United States might intervene again in Vietnam to prevent communist violations of the truce. A cease-fire under the provisions of the

Paris Peace Accords had gone into effect on January 27, 1973, but was quickly and repeatedly violated by both sides as they jockeyed for control of territory in South Vietnam. Very quickly, both sides resumed heavy fighting in what came to be called the “cease-fire war.”

- Mar 15 1989 – VA elevated to a Cabinet–level agency under Public Law 100–527

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