Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 15 NOV

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

- Nov 00 1943 – WW2:  USS Capelin (SS–289) sunk by unknown causes, either Japanese aircraft (934 Kokutai) or minelayer Wakatake, a Japanese mine in the northern Celebes, or perhaps a hull defect reported prior to her departure from Darwin. 78 killed

- Nov 01 1765 – American Revolution: In the face of widespread opposition in the American colonies, Parliament enacts the Stamp Act, a taxation measure designed to raise revenue for British military operations in America.

- Nov 01 1777 – American Revolution: The Continental sloop Ranger, commanded by Capt. John Paul Jones, departs for France carrying dispatches British Gen. John Burgoyne's surrender in the Saratoga, N.Y., campaign. The news helps solidify Frances support of the patriots. During the voyage, Ranger captures two British prizes, Mary and George, and sends them to France.

- Nov 01 1827 – While in the Aegean Sea, the sloop–of–war Warren, commanded by Commodore Lawrence Kearney, burns the pirate town of Mykonos in the Cyclades Islands, recovers equipment and stores from captured merchant ships, and seizes a pirate boat.


- Nov 01 1914 – WWI:  Battle of Coronel - In a crushing victory, a German naval squadron commanded by Vice-Admiral Maximilian von Spee sinks two British armored cruisers with all aboard off the southern coast of Chile.

- Nov 01 1915 – Parris Island is officially designated a US Marine Corps Recruit Depot.
Nov 01 1941 – WW2: President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 8929 transfers the U.S. Coast Guard to Navy Department control for the duration of a national emergency in order to perform anti-submarine patrols and escort high-value convoys.


Nov 01 1943 – WW2: USS Borie (DD 215) rams and sinks the German submarine U-405 in the Atlantic. As a result from the ramming, she is so badly damaged that she is scuttled the following day after a failed attempt to tow her to port. Twenty-seven crewmen lose their lives in this engagement.


Nov 01 1943 – WW2: In support of the landings on Bougainville, U.S. aircraft carrier forces attack the huge Japanese base at Rabaul.

Nov 01 1944 – WW2: USS Blackfin (SS 322) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks auxiliary vessel Caroline Maru and transport No.12 Unkai Maru in Mindoro Strait. Meanwhile, USS Ray (SS 271) sinks the Japanese merchant tanker No.7 Horai Maru and lands a party of three men, together with two tons of supplies, at Mamburao on the west coast of Mindoro.

Nov 01 1951 – Cold War: Operation Buster-Jangle - 6,500 American soldiers are exposed to 'Desert Rock' atomic explosions for training purposes in Nevada. Participation is not voluntary.

Nov 01 1952 – Cold War: Operation Ivy – The United States successfully detonates the first large hydrogen bomb, codenamed "Mike" ["M" for megaton], in the Eniwetok atoll, located in the Marshall Islands in the central Pacific Ocean. The explosion had a yield of 10 megatons.

Nov 01 1952 – Korean War: USS Vammen (DE 644) is taken under fire by an estimated 105 mm gun in the vicinity of Sinuong. One man is wounded by a shell fragment, but there is no material damage.

Nov 01 1968 – Vietnam: President Lyndon B. Johnson calls a halt to bombing in Vietnam, hoping this will lead to progress at the Paris peace talks.


Nov 02 1777 – American Revolution: The USS Ranger, with a crew of 140 men under the command of John Paul Jones, leaves Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for the naval port at Brest, France, where it will stop before heading toward the Irish Sea to begin raids on British warships. This was the first mission of its kind during the Revolutionary War.

Nov 02 1783 – American Revolution: In Rocky Hill, New Jersey, US General George Washington gives his "Farewell Address to the Army".

Nov 02 1864 – Civil War: Union paddle-wheelers Key West and Tawah encounter transports Undine and Venus, which the Confederates captured three days earlier on the Tennessee River. After a heated
running engagement, Venus is retaken. Undine is badly damaged but manages to escape and gains the protection of Confederate batteries at Reynoldsburg Island, near Johnsonville, Tenn.

- Nov 02 1899 – The protected cruiser Charleston runs aground on an uncharted reef near Camiguin Island north of Luzon. Wrecked beyond salvage, she is abandoned by her crew who make camp on a nearby island.


- Nov 02 1943 – WW2: Operation Supercharge - General Montgomery breaks through Rommel’s defensive line at El Alamein, Egypt, forcing a retreat. It was the beginning of the end of the Axis occupation of North Africa.

- Nov 02 1943 – WW2: In the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay, U.S. cruisers and destroyers of Task Force 39, commanded by Rear Adm. Aaron S. Merrill, turn back Japanese forces as they try to attack invasion shipping off Bougainville. This action, with its successful use of radar to manage U.S. forces, marks the end of Japan's previous advantage in night engagement.

- Nov 02 1943 – WW2: USS Halibut (SS 232), USS Seahorse (SS 304), and USS Trigger (SS 237), all operating independently of each other, attack a Japanese convoy south of Honshu and sink five enemy vessels.

- Nov 02 1947 – Spruce Goose: The Hughes Flying Boat—the largest aircraft ever built—is piloted by designer Howard Hughes on its first and only flight. Built with laminated birch and spruce, the massive wooden aircraft had a wingspan longer than a football field and was designed to carry more than 700 men to battle.

- Nov 02 1952 – Korea: Aircraft from USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31) and USS Oriskany (CVA 34) attack targets in the city of Pyongyang in the first of three major strikes against that city during a five day period.

- Nov 02 1963 – Vietnam: Following the overthrow of his government by South Vietnamese military forces the day before, President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother are captured and killed by a group of soldiers. The death of Diem caused celebration among many people in South Vietnam, but also lead to political chaos in the nation.

- Nov 02 1967 – Vietnam: US President Lyndon B. Johnson and "The Wise Men" conclude that the American people should be given more optimistic reports on the progress of the war.

- Nov 02 1982 – Afghanistan: A truck explodes in the Salang Tunnel killing an estimated 3,000 people, mostly Soviet soldiers traveling to Kabul.

- Nov 03 1783 – American Revolution: The American Continental Army is disbanded.

- Nov 03 1813 – American troops destroy the Indian village of Tallushatchee in the Mississippi Valley.
- Nov 03 1853 – The frigate Constitution, as the flagship of the African Squadron under the command of Commodore Isaac Mayo captures American slaver, the schooner H. N. Gambrill 60 miles south of Congo River. This capture is Constitution's last prize.

- Nov 03 1865 – Following the Civil War, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles orders all naval vessels to resume rendering honors when entering British ports and exchange official courtesies with English men of war.

- Nov 03 1918 – WWI: Germany - As the war draws to a close, angry rebels in both Germany and Austria-Hungary revolt on November 3, 1918, raising the red banner of the revolutionary socialist Communist Party and threatening to follow the Russian example in bringing down their imperialist governments.

- Nov 03 1918 – WWI: The German fleet at Kiel mutinies. This is the first act leading to Germany’s capitulation in World War I.

- Nov 03 1931 – Panama: With the support of the U.S. government, Panama issues a declaration of independence from Colombia. The revolution was engineered by a Panamanian faction backed by the Panama Canal Company, a French-U.S. corporation that hoped to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans with a waterway across the Isthmus of Panama.

- Nov 03 1931 – The dirigible USS Akron (ZRS 4) makes a 10–hour flight out of NAS Lakehurst, N.J. carrying 207 people and establishes a new record for the number of passengers carried into the air by a single craft.

- Nov 03 1941 – WW2: The Combine Japanese Fleet receive Top-Secret Order No. 1: In 34 days time, Pearl Harbor is to be bombed, along with Mayala, the Dutch East Indies, and the Philippines.

- Nov 03 1942 – WW2: The Koli Point action begins during the Guadalcanal Campaign and ends on November 12.

- Nov 03 1943 – WW2: PB4Y's sink the Japanese stores ship Minato Mau 19 miles off Ocean Island.

- Nov 03 1943 – WW2: The battleship USS Oklahoma (BB 37) is refloated following months of laborious effort after being sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. Too old and badly damaged to be worth returning to service, Oklahoma is formally decommissioned in September 1944.

- Nov 03 1943 – WW2: 500 aircraft of the U.S. 8th Air Force devastate Wilhelmshafen harbor in Germany.

- Nov 03 1944 – WW2: USS Gurnard (SS 254) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the Japanese freighter Taimei Maru west of the Labaun, Borneo while USS Pintado (SS 387) attacks a small detachment of Japanese warships and sinks the destroyer Akikaze west of the Lingayen Gulf.

- Nov 03 1961 – After Hurricane Hattie, helicopters from USS Antietam (CV 36) begin relief operations at British Honduras providing medical personnel, medical supplies, general supplies, and water.
Nov 03 1967 – 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. (3–11 NOV).

Nov 03 1986 – Iran: The Lebanese magazine Ash Shiraa reports that the United States has been secretly selling arms to Iran in an effort to secure the release of seven American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

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Nov 04 1791 – Northwest Indian War: The Western Confederacy of American Indians win a major victory over the U.S. in the Battle of the Wabash.


Nov 04 1923 – Lt. Alford J. Williams, flying an R2C–1 equipped with a Curtiss D–12 engine, raises the world speed record to 266.59 mph at Mitchel Field, Long Island, N.Y., beating the record set by Lt. Harold J. Brow only two days before.


Nov 04 1944 – WW2: British Gen. John Dill dies in Washington, D.C., and is buried in Arlington Cemetery, the only foreigner to be so honored.


Nov 04 1962 – The last atmospheric nuclear test is conducted by the U.S. in a test of the Nike–Hercules air defense missile, Shot Dominic–Tightrope.

Nov 04 1967 – Landing craft from USS Navarro (APA 215) rescues 43 men from British SS Habib Marikar, which ran aground on a reef at Lincoln Island in the Tonkin Gulf.

Nov 04 1967 – Vietnam: Battle of Dak To - American troops broke a North Vietnamese 6 day assault at Loc Ninh, near the Cambodian border.

Nov 04 1969 – Vietnam: In the biggest battle in four months, South Vietnamese infantry, supported by U.S. planes and artillery, clash with North Vietnamese troops for 10 hours near Duc Lop near the Cambodian border. Eighty communist troops were reported killed. South Vietnamese losses included 24 killed and 38 wounded.

Nov 04 1970 – Vietnam: The United States hands over an air base in the Mekong Delta to the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) as part of the Vietnamization program.

Nov 04 1979 – At the American Embassy in Teheran, Iran, 90 people, including 63 Americans, are taken hostage for 444 days by militant student followers of Ayatollah Khomeini. The students demand the return of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was undergoing medical treatment in New York City.

Nov 05 1775 – Commodore Esek Hopkins is appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Navy. Early in 1778, he is dismissed from his position due to dissatisfaction with his service but remains popular in his local community, serving in the Rhode Island legislature.

Nov 05 1780 – French–American forces under Colonel LaBalme are defeated by Miami Chief Little Turtle

Nov 05 1814 – War of 1812: Having decided to abandon the Niagara frontier, the American army blows up Fort Erie.

Nov 05 1862 – Indian Wars: In Minnesota, 303 Dakota warriors are found guilty of rape and murder of whites and are sentenced to hang. 38 are ultimately executed and the others reprieved.

Nov 05 1862 – Civil War: Abraham Lincoln questions the leadership skills of George B. McClellan during battles and removes him as commander of the Union Army for the second and final time. Lincoln's famous evaluation of McClellan read, "If he can't fight himself, he excels in making others ready to fight."

Nov 05 1915 – Lt. Cmdr. Henry C. Mustin, in an AB–2 flying boat, makes the first underway catapult launch from a ship, USS North Carolina (ACR 12) at Pensacola Bay, Fla. This experimental work leads to the use of catapults on battleships and cruisers through World War II and to the steam catapults on present–day aircraft carriers.

Nov 05 1917 – While escorting a convoy en route to Brest, France, USS Alcedo (SP 166) is torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine UC–71. Twenty–one crewmembers are lost with the ship.

Nov 05 1917 – WWI: General John Pershing leads U.S. troops into the first American action against German forces near the Rhine–Marne Canal in France.

Nov 05 1937 – Adolf Hitler holds a secret meeting and states his plans for acquiring "living space" for the German people.
Nov 05 1937 – Franklin Delano Roosevelt is re-elected for an unprecedented third term as president of the United States. Roosevelt was elected to a third term with the promise of maintaining American neutrality as far as foreign wars were concerned.


Nov 05 1944 – WW2: Aircraft from USS Essex (CV 9), as part of Vice Adm. John S. McCain's Task Force 38's two day carrier strikes in the Philippines, sink the Japanese cruiser Nachi in Manila Bay.

Nov 05 1945 – WW2: Ensign Jake C. West, embarked with VF–51 on board USS Wake Island (CVE 65) for carrier qualifications with the FR–1 aircraft, loses power on the forward radial engine shortly after taking off, forcing him to start his rear engine. Returning to his ship, he makes a successful landing, thus becoming the first jet landing on board an aircraft carrier.

Nov 05 1965 – Vietnam: U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam reports the lowest weekly death toll in five years. Twenty-four Americans died in combat during the last week of October, the fifth consecutive week that the U.S. death toll was under 50.

Nov 05 2009 – US Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan kills 13 and wounds 29 at Fort Hood, Texas in the deadliest mass shooting at a US military installation.

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Nov 06 1851 – The U.S. Navy expedition under Lt. William L. Herndon, which was exploring the Amazon valley and its tributaries, reaches Iquitos in the jungle region of the upper Amazon. The expedition covers 4,366 miles from Lima, Peru to Para, Brazil.

Nov 06 1865 – Civil War: CSS Shenandoah is the last Confederate combat unit to surrender after circumnavigating the globe on a cruise on which it sank or captured 37 vessels. She was a iron-framed, teak-planked, full-rigged ship w/ auxiliary steam power.

CSS Shenandoah

Nov 06 1941 – WW2: USS Omaha (CL 4) and USS Somers (DD 381) intercept the German blockade runner Odenwald disguised as a U.S. freighter and board her after the German crew abandon the ship. They bring the ship to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where the boarding party is awarded salvage shares.

Nov 06 1942 – WW2: Guadalcanal Campaign – Carlson's 29 day patrol begins.

Nov 06 1942 – WW2: The first officer and enlisted WAVES from training schools report for shore duty at installations around the United States.
- Nov 06 1945 – WW2: The first landing of a jet on a carrier takes place on USS Wake Island when an FR–1 Fireball touches down.

- Nov 06 1951 – A P2V–3 Neptune patrol bomber assigned to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One (VQ–1) is attacked by two Soviet La–2 fighters over the Sea of Japan, about 18 miles from the Soviet coast near Vladivostok. All 10 crewmen are lost. Three days of search and rescue operations revealed no trace of them and they are declared deceased by the Navy in 1952.

- Nov 06 1963 – Vietnam: In the aftermath of the November 1 coup that resulted in the murder of President Ngo Dinh Diem, Gen. Duong Van Minh, leading the Revolutionary Military Committee of the dissident generals who had conducted the coup, takes over leadership of South Vietnam.

- Nov 06 1967 – Helicopters from USS Coral Sea (CVA 43) rescue the 37–man crew of Liberian freighter Royal Fortunes after she runs aground on a reef in the Gulf of Tonkin.


- Nov 06 1986 – The Iran arms–for–hostages deal is revealed, damaging the Reagan administration.

- Nov 06 1991 – The last burning Kuwaiti oil field is extinguished.

- Nov 07 1811 – Tecumseh’s War: The Battle of Tippecanoe is fought near present–day Battle Ground, Indiana, United States.

- Nov 07 1861 – Civil War: Battle of Belmont – In Belmont, Missouri, Union forces led by General Ulysses S. Grant overrun a Confederate camp but are forced to retreat when Confederate reinforcements arrive. Although Grant claimed victory, the Union gained no ground and left the Confederates in firm control of that section of the Mississippi River. Casualties and losses: US 607 – CSA 641.

- Nov 07 1861 – Civil War: The U.S. Naval force under Rear Adm. Samuel F. DuPont capture Port Royal Sound, S.C. During battle, DuPont's ships steam in boldly and the naval gunners pour a withering fire into the defending forts Walker and Beauregard with extreme accuracy. Marines and sailors land to occupy the forts until turned over to Army troops under Gen. T. W. Sherman.

- Nov 07 1881 – The Naval Advisory Board submit their report to Secretary of the Navy William H. Hunt recommends new ships in the U.S. Navy be constructed of steel instead of iron, resulting in the A, B, C, D ships.


- Nov 07 1944 – WW2: Richard Sorge, a half-Russian, half-German Soviet spy, who had used the cover of a German journalist to report on Germany and Japan for the Soviet Union, is hanged by his Japanese captors. Twenty years later, he was officially declared a Hero of the Soviet Union.

- Nov 07 1944 – WW2: America's Commander -in-Chief Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt is reelected president of the United States for a record third time, handily defeating his Republican challenger,
Thomas Dewey, the governor of New York, and becoming the first and only president in history to win a fourth term in office. Three months after his inauguration, while resting at his retreat at Warm Springs, Georgia, Roosevelt died of a massive cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 63.

- Nov 07 1944 – WW2: On this day in 1944, Richard Sorge, a half-Russian, half-German Soviet spy, who had used the cover of a German journalist to report on Germany and Japan for the Soviet Union, is hanged by his Japanese captors.

- Nov 07 1957 – Cold War: The Gaither Report calls for more American missiles and fallout shelters. Eisenhower, a fiscal conservative, was reluctant to commit to the tremendously increased military budget called for by the committee who wrote the report. He did increase funding for the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles and for civil defense programs, but ignored most of the other recommendations made in the report.

- Nov 07, 1964 - Vietnam: The latest U.S. intelligence analysis claims that Communist forces in South Vietnam now include about 30,000 professional full-time soldiers, many of whom are North Vietnamese. Before this, it was largely reported that the war was merely an internal insurgent movement in South Vietnam opposed to the government in Saigon.

- Nov 07, 1966 - Vietnam: Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara faces a storm of student protest when he visits Harvard University to address a small group of students. As he left a dormitory, about 100 demonstrators shouted at him and demanded a debate. When McNamara tried to speak, supporters of the Students for a Democratic Society shouted him down. Police intervention was required to allow him to leave the campus.

- Nov 07 1973 – The U.S. Congress overrides President Richard M. Nixon's veto of the War Powers Resolution. The War Powers Resolution becomes law. The law requires the president to notify Congress within 48 hours of committing armed forces to military action and forbids armed forces from remaining for more than 60 days, with a further 30 day withdrawal period, without an authorization of the use of military force or a declaration of war.

- Nov 07 2004 – War in Iraq: The interim government of Iraq calls for a 60-day "state of emergency" as U.S. forces storm the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

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- Nov 08 1775 – American Revolution: General George Washington seeks to resolve several problems facing the army: how to encourage experienced troops to enlist, how to assemble a capable officer corps and how to overcome provincial differences and rivalries.

- Nov 08 1861 – Civil War: The "Trent Affair" – The USS San Jacinto stops the United Kingdom mail ship Trent and arrests two Confederate envoys, sparking a diplomatic crisis between the UK and US.

- Nov 08 1864 – Civil War: Northern voters overwhelmingly endorse the leadership and policies of President Abraham Lincoln when they elect him to a second term. With his re-election, any hope for a negotiated settlement with the Confederacy vanished.

- Nov 08 1917 – WWI: One day after an armed uprising led by his radical socialist Bolsheviks toppled the provisional Russian government, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin rises before the newly formed
All-Russian Congress of Soviets to call for an immediate armistice with the Central Powers in World War I.

- Nov 08 1923 – Adolf Hitler, president of the far-right Nazi Party, launches the Beer Hall Putsch, his first attempt at seizing control of the German government.

- Nov 08 1939 – In Munich, Adolf Hitler narrowly escapes the assassination attempt of Georg Elser while celebrating the 16th anniversary of the Beer Hall Putsch.

- Nov 08 1942 – WW2: Just as the Allies were preparing an invasion of North Africa President Franklin Roosevelt broadcasts a message directed at Vichy France and its leader Marshal Petain. It was intended to appeal to the patriotism of Petain and the Francophile residents of the French colonies in North Africa and the Nazi-controlled portion of France.

- Nov 08 1942 – WW2: In Operation Torch, American and British forces land in Morocco and Algeria. The U.S. Navy sees most of its action around Casablanca and elsewhere on Morocco's Atlantic coast. This ambitious trans-oceanic amphibious operation gives the Allies bases for future operations. In six more months, all of North Africa is cleared of Axis forces, opening the way for an invasion of Italy.


- Nov 08 1943 – WW2: USS Bluefish (SS 222) sinks the Japanese army tanker Kyokeui Maru in the South China Sea off the northwest coast of Luzon while USS Rasher (SS 269) sinks the Japanese merchant tanker Tango Maru in Makassar Strait and survives counterattacks by auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 41.


- Nov 08 1956 – Navy Stratolab balloon, piloted by Lt. Cmdr. Malcolm D. Ross and Lt. Cmdr. M. Lee Lewis, surpasses the world height record by soaring to 76,000 ft. over Black Hills, S.D. The flight gathers meteorological, cosmic ray, and other scientific data. For this record ascent, the men are awarded the 1957 Harmon International Trophy for Aeronauts.

- Nov 08 1965 – Vietnam: The 173rd Airborne is ambushed by over 1,200 Viet Cong in Operation Hump during the Vietnam War, while the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment fight one of the first set–piece engagements of the war between Australian forces and the Vietcong at the Battle of Gang Toi.

- Nov 08 1965 – Vietnam: For action this day in the Iron Triangle northwest of Saigon, Specialist Five Lawrence Joel, a medic with the 1st Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade earns the Medal of Honor, becoming the first living African American since the Spanish-American War to receive the nation’s highest award for valor.
Nov 08 1975 – More than 100 Sailors and Marines from USS Inchon (LPH 12) and USS Shreveport (LPD 12) fight a fire aboard a Spanish merchant vessel at Palma.


Nov 08 2004 – War in Iraq: More than 10,000 U.S. troops and a small number of Iraqi army units participate in a siege on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.


-Nov 09 1822 – The brig Alligator, commanded by Lt. William H. Allen, recaptures several merchant ships from pirates off Matanzas, Cuba, but Allen dies in battle. Boats from Alligator capture all the pirate vessels except one schooner that manages to escape. Casualties and losses: US 7 – Pirates 14 + 1 Schooner.

-Nov 09 1862 – Civil War: General Ambrose Burnside assumes command of the Union Army of the Potomac following the removal of George B. McClellan. McClellan was well liked by many soldiers, and had a loyal following among some in the command structure. However, others detested him, and his successor would have a difficult time reconciling the pro- and anti-McClellan factions within the army’s leadership.

-Nov 09 1863 – Civil War: The side wheel steamer James Adger, commanded by Cmdr. Thomas H. Patterson, captures blockade runner Robert E. Lee off Cape Lookout, Shoals, N.C.

-Nov 09 1863 – Civil War: Gettysburg Address -- At the dedication of a military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln delivers one of the most memorable speeches in American history. In just 272 words, Lincoln brilliantly and movingly reminded a war-weary public why the Union had to fight, and win, the Civil War.

-Nov 09 1875 – Indian Wars: Indian Inspector E.C. Watkins submits a report to Washington, D.C., stating that hundreds of Sioux and Cheyenne Indians associated with Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse are hostile to the United States. In so doing, Watkins set into motion a series of events that led to the Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana the following year.

-Nov 09 1901 – Teddy Roosevelt establishes a naval base in the Philippines at Subic Bay, on territory won from Spain during the Spanish-American War.

-Nov 09 1921 – USS Olympia (C 6) arrives at the Washington Navy Yard from France carrying the body of the Unknown Soldier of World War I for internment at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

-Nov 09 1938 – PreWWII: In retaliation against a Jewish refugees killing a German diplomat an event that would foreshadow the Holocaust occurred. German Nazis launched a campaign of terror against Jewish people and their homes and businesses in Germany and Austria. The violence, which
continued through November 10 and was later dubbed “Kristallnacht,” or “Night of Broken Glass,” after the countless smashed windows of Jewish-owned establishments, left approximately 100 Jews dead, 7,500 Jewish businesses damaged, hundreds of synagogues, homes, schools and graveyards vandalized, and an estimated 30,000 Jewish men were arrested.

- Nov 09 1944 – WW2: USS Barbero (SS 317) attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the merchant ship Shimotsu Maru about 250 miles west of Manila while USS Queenfish (SS 393) also attacks a Japanese convoy and sinks the gunboat Chojusan Maru about 50 miles west of Kyushu. Additionally on this date, USS Haddo (SS 255) sinks the Japanese tanker No.2 Hishu Maru in Mindoro Strait.


- Nov 09 1956 – Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas proposes the Polaris missile program to Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson.


- Nov 09 1970 – Vietnam: The Supreme Court of the United States votes 6 to 3 against hearing a case to allow Massachusetts to enforce its law granting residents the right to refuse military service in an undeclared war.

- Nov 09 1979 – Cold War: Nuclear false alarm – The NORAD computers and the Alternate National Military Command Center in Fort Ritchie, Maryland detected purported massive Soviet nuclear strike. After reviewing the raw data from satellites and checking the early warning radars, the alert is cancelled.
Nov 09 1989 – Cold War: Fall of the Berlin Wall. Communist-controlled East Germany opens checkpoints in the Berlin Wall allowing its citizens to travel to West Germany. This key event led to the eventual reunification of East and West Germany.

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Nov 10 1775 – American Revolution: The United States Marine Corps is founded at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia by Samuel Nicholas. Continental Congress establishes two battalions of Marines.

Nov 10 1782 – American Revolution: In the last battle of the Revolution, George Rodgers Clark attacks Indians and Loyalists at Chillicothe, in Ohio Territory.

Nov 10 1863 – Civil War: CSS Alabama captures and burns clipper ship Winged Racer carrying a cargo of sugar, hides, and jute in the Straits of Sunda off Java.

Nov 10 1865 – Civil War: Henry Wirz, a Swiss immigrant and the commander of Andersonville prison in Georgia, is hanged for the murder of soldiers incarcerated there during the Civil War.

Nov 10 1923 – Michinomiya Hirohito is enthroned as the 124th Japanese monarch in an imperial line dating back to 660 B.C. Emperor Hirohito presided over one of the most turbulent eras in his nation’s history. From rapid military expansion beginning in 1931 to the crushing defeat of Japan by Allied forces in 1945. Under U.S. occupation and postwar reconstruction, Hirohito was formally stripped of his powers and forced to renounce his alleged divinity, but he remained his country’s official figurehead until his death in 1989.

Nov 10 1942 – WW2: German troops occupy Vichy France, which had previously been free of an Axis military presence.


Nov 10 1944 – WW2: The ammunition ship USS Mount Hood explodes at Seeadler Harbour, Manus, Admiralty Islands, killing at least 432 and wounding 371.

Nov 10 1954 – U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower dedicates the USMC War Memorial (Iwo Jima memorial) in Arlington National Cemetery.

Nov 10 1959 – USS Triton (SSRN 586) is commissioned as a nuclear–powered radar picket submarine.

Nov 10 1964 – Vietnam: At a news conference, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara says that the United States has no plans to send combat troops into Vietnam. When asked whether the United States intended to increase its activities in Vietnam, he replied, “Wait and see.” By 1969, more than 500,000 American troops were in South Vietnam.

Nov 10 1970 – Vietnam: Vietnamization – For the first time in five years, no U.S. combat fatalities in Southeast Asia are reported for the previous week. This was a direct result of President Richard Nixon’s Vietnamization program, whereby the responsibility for the war was slowly shifted from U.S. combat forces to the South Vietnamese.
Nov 10 1975 – The Navy enlisted rating of Intelligence Specialist (IS) is established. Intelligence Specialists analyze intelligence information, present intelligence briefings, prepare planning materials for photographic reconnaissance missions, and maintain intelligence libraries and files amongst their many duties.

Nov 11 1778 – American Revolution: Cherry Valley Massacre: Patriot Colonel Ichabod Alden refuses to believe intelligence about an approaching hostile force. Loyalists and Seneca Indian forces subsequently attack a fort and village in eastern New York during the War, killing more than forty civilians and soldiers.

Nov 11 1813 – War of 1812: Battle of Crysler's Farm – British and Canadian forces defeat a larger American force, causing the Americans to abandon their Saint Lawrence campaign. Casualties and losses: US 359 – UK/CN 192

Nov 11 1861 – Civil War: Thaddeus Lowe conducts an aerial observation of Confederate positions from balloon boat G.W. Parke Custis. This observation paves the way for the Navy's present effective use of the air as an element of sea power.

Nov 11 1864 – Civil War: Sherman's March to the Sea – Union General William Tecumseh Sherman begins burning Atlanta, Georgia to the ground in preparation for his march south.

Nov 11 1865 – Civil War: Dr. Mary E. Walker, the first female surgeon in the Union Army, is presented with the Medal of Honor, the first woman to receive that award.

Nov 11 1870 – The Navy expedition to explore the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Southern Mexico, commanded by Capt. Robert W. Shufeldt, enters the Coatzacoalcos River to begin a survey for a possible inter-oceanic canal. Support is provided by the gunboat Kansas and the screw tug Mayflower.

Nov 11 1909 – Construction begins on the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Nov 11 1918 – WW1: Germany signs an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car in the forest of Compiègne, France. The fighting officially ends at 11:00 a.m., (the eleventh hour in the eleventh month on the eleventh day) and this is annually honored with a two–minute silence. The war officially ends on the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28th June, 1918
Nov 11 1920 – Lenah S. Higbee becomes the first woman to be awarded the Navy Cross for her service as a nurse in World War I. Named in her honor, USS Higbee (DD 806) is commissioned in 1945 and is the first U.S. Navy combat ship to bear the name of a female member of U.S. Navy service.

Nov 11 1921 – The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery is dedicated by U.S. President Warren G. Harding. Two days before, an unknown American soldier, who had fallen somewhere on a World War I battlefield, arrived at the nation’s capital from a military cemetery in France. On Armistice Day, in the presence of President Harding and other government, military, and international dignitaries, the Unknown Soldier was buried with highest honors beside the Memorial Amphitheater. As the soldier was lowered to his final resting place, a two-inch layer of soil brought from France was placed below his coffin so that he might rest forever atop the earth on which he died.

Nov 11 1942 – WW2: Nazi Germany completes its occupation of France.

Nov 11 1942 – WW2: Congress approves lowering the draft age to 18 and raising the upper limit to age 37.

Nov 11 1943 – WW2: Task Force 38 and Task Group 50.3 attack Japanese shipping at Rabaul, where the Japanese destroyer Suzunami is sunk and damage is inflicted to enemy destroyers Naganami, Urakaze, and Wakatsuki. This raid is the first use of SB2C Curtiss Helldivers in combat.

Nov 11 1944 – WW2: USS Scamp (SS–277) sunk by Japanese naval aircraft and Coast Defense Vessel No.4 in Tokyo Bay area. 83 killed

Nov 11 1966 – Gemini 12 is launched with former aviator Edwin Buzz Aldrin and Cmdr. James A. Lovell, Jr., the command pilot. The mission lasts three days, 22 hours, and 34 minutes and includes 59 orbits at an altitude of 162.7 nautical miles. Recovery is done by HS–11 helicopter from USS Wasp (CVS 18).

Nov 11 1967 – Vietnam: Three U.S. prisoners of war, two of them African American, are released by the Viet Cong in a ceremony in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. U.S. officials in Saigon said that the released prisoners had been brainwashed, but the State Department denied it. The Viet Cong said that the release was a response to antiwar protests in the U.S. and a gesture towards the courageous struggle of blacks in the U.S.

Nov 11 1967 – Vietnam: Operation Wheeler and Wallowa merged in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces. The purpose of these operations were to relieve enemy pressure and to reinforce the III Marine Amphibious Force in the area, thus permitting Marines to be deployed further north. The operation lasted more than 12 months and resulted in 10,000 enemy casualties. My Lai Massacre subsequently occurred 16 MAR 1968.

Nov 11 1968 – Vietnam: Operation Commando Hunt initiated. The goal was to interdict men and supplies on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, through Laos into South Vietnam.


Nov 11 1993 – A sculpture honoring women who served in the Vietnam War is dedicated at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Nov 12 1864 – Civil War: Union General William T. Sherman orders the business district of Atlanta, Georgia, destroyed before he embarks on his famous March to the Sea.

Nov 12 1867 – Indian Wars: After more than a decade of ineffective military campaigns and infamous atrocities, a conference begins at Fort Laramie to discuss alternative solutions to the “Indian problem” and to initiate peace negotiations with the Sioux.

Nov 12 1912 – Lt. Theodore Ellyson makes the first successful launch of an airplane (A–3) by catapult at the Washington Navy Yard.

Nov 12 1940 – Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Harold R. Stark, submits the memorandum to Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox with four war plans if the United States enters World War II. Stark recommends the fourth war plan, Plan Dog, calling for a strong offensive in the Atlantic and defense in the Pacific.

Nov 12 1942 – WW2: Lt. Cmdr. Bruce McCandless displays superb initiative by assuming command of the USS San Francisco (CA 38) during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal after all other personnel on the navigating and signal bridges were rendered unconscious, killed, or wounded. McCandless boldly continues to engage the enemy, leading the San Francisco to victory. He is later awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Nov 12 1942 – WW2: The Naval battle of Guadalcanal begins with Japanese air attacks on U.S. ships bringing reinforcements to the embattled island. Over the next four days, Japan loses the battleships Hiei and Kirishima, heavy cruiser Kinugasa, three destroyers and many valuable transports. Two U.S. light cruisers, Atlanta and Juneau, and seven destroyers are sunk. Japan's losses weaken their ability to strengthen their garrison on Guadalcanal, enabling the U.S. to shift from the defensive to the offensive in this campaign.

Nov 12 1943 – WW2: PB4Y–1 (VB–103) sinks German submarine U–508 in the Bay of Biscay. Prior to this, U–508 sank 14 Allied vessels, including the American merchant SS Nathaniel Hawthorne Nov. 7, 1942

Nov 12 1943 – WW2: President Franklin D. Roosevelt embarks on USS Iowa (BB 61) to attend the Allied conferences at Tehran, Iran, and Cairo.

Nov 12 1944 – WW2: 32 British Lancaster bombers attack and sink the mighty German battleship Tirpitz. Each bomber dropped a 12,000-pound Tallboy bomb and two hit their target, causing the Tirpitz to capsize, and killing almost 1,000 crewmen. Ironically, the mighty Tirpitz fired its guns only once in aggression during the entire extent of the war-against a British coaling station on the island of Spitsbergen.
- Nov 12 1948 – In Tokyo, an international war crimes tribunal sentences seven Japanese military and government officials, including General Hideki Tojo, to death for their roles in World War II.

- Nov 12 1951 – Korea: The U.S. Eighth Army is ordered to cease offensive operations and begin an active defense.


- Nov 12 1971 – Vietnam: President Richard Nixon sets February 1, 1972, as the deadline for the withdrawal of an additional 45,000 U.S. troops. U.S. troop withdrawals had begun in the fall of 1969. After the February withdrawals were complete, the total U.S. force strength in South Vietnam was 139,000.


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- Nov 13 1776 – The Continental Navy ship Alfred, commanded by John Paul Jones, along with Continental sloop Providence, commanded by Hoysted Hacker, capture the British transport Mellish, carrying winter uniforms later used by Gen. George Washington’s troops. Three days later, Alfred captures the British brig Hetty off the New England coast.

- Nov 13 1941 – WW2: The United States Congress amends the Neutrality Act of 1935 to allow American merchant ships access to war zones, thereby putting U.S. vessels in the line of fire.

- Nov 13 1942 – WW2: All five Sullivan brothers are lost when the USS Juneau (CL 52) is destroyed during the naval Battle of Guadalcanal.

- Nov 13 1942 – WW2: Gunners Mate Third Class Kenneth J. Spangenberg is killed on board USS San Francisco in the Battle of Savo Island and posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.


- Nov 13 1944 – WW2: Aircraft from Carrier Task Groups 38.1, 38.3, and 38.4 attack Japanese shipping and port facilities at Manila and central Luzon.

- Nov 13 1945 – WW2: President Harry Truman announces the establishment of a panel of inquiry to look into the settlement of Jews in Palestine. In the last weeks of World War II, the Allies liberated one death camp after another in which the German Nazi regime had held and slaughtered millions of Jews. Surviving Jews in the formerly Nazi-occupied territories were left without family, homes, jobs or savings.

- Nov 13 1952 – Korea: USS Toledo (CA 133) carries out Operation "Counter-Punch against Kojo gun emplacements. Three direct hits are reported.


- Nov 13 1977 – Vietnam: President Lyndon Johnson is briefed on the situation in Vietnam by Gen. William Westmoreland, Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, and Robert W. Komer, the head of the Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support program. They painted an optimistic picture that led Johnson to state on television on 17NOV that, while much remained to be done, “We are inflicting greater losses than we’re taking…We are making progress.”

- Nov 13 1982 – The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. after a march to its site by thousands of Vietnam War veterans.
Nov 13 2001 – War on Terrorism: In the first such act since World War II, US President George W. Bush signs an executive order allowing military tribunals against foreigners suspected of connections to terrorist acts or planned acts on the United States.

Nov 14 1862 – Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln approves of General Ambrose Burnside’s plan to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. This was an ill-fated move, as it led to the disastrous Battle of Fredericksburg in Virginia in December 1862, in which the Army of the Potomac was dealt one of its worst defeats at the hands of Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

Nov 14 1864 – Civil War: Acting Master Lothrop Wight and Acting Ensign Frederick W. Mintzer explore Confederate naval dispositions above Dutch Gap on James River, Va. Work on the Dutch Gap would allow Union gunboats to bypass the obstructions at Trents Reach. Wight and Mintzer provide valuable information regarding the positions of the Confederate ships and troops.

Nov 14 1906 – President Theodore Roosevelt becomes the first president to visit a foreign country while in office, traveling to Panama onboard USS Louisiana (BB 19).

Nov 14 1910 – Civilian Eugene Ely pilots the first aircraft to take–off from a warship, USS Birmingham (CL 2) at Hampton Roads, VA.


Nov 14 1941 – WW2: In Slonim, German forces engaged in Operation Barbarossa murdered 9000 Jews in a single day.

Nov 14 1943 – WW2: USS Narwhal (SS 167) delivers 46 tons of ammunition and stores, disembarks a Navy officer at Nasipit, Mindanao and embarks 32 evacuees, which include eight women, two children, and a baby, who are transported to Darwin, Australia.

Nov 14 1944 – WW2: USS Jack (SS 259) attacks a Japanese convoy off Cape Padaran, French Indochina and sinks the freighter Hinaga Maru, while USS Raton (SS 270) attacks a Japanese convoy off the northwest coast of Luzon and sinks the merchant tanker No.5 Unkai Maru. Lastly, USS Ray (SS 271) sinks Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No.7 65 miles northwest of Cape Bolinao.

Nov 14 1961 – Vietnam: President Kennedy increases the number of American advisors in Vietnam from 1,000 to 16,000.

Nov 14 1965 – Vietnam: The first major engagement between regular American and North Vietnamese forces occurs with the Battle of Chu Pon–ia Drang River. U.S. 1st Calvary fought North Vietnamese regulars 14–17. The second battle was fought by ARVN Airborne Brigade 18–26 NOV.

Nov 14 1967 – Vietnam: Maj. Gen. Bruno Hochmuth, commander of the 3rd Marine Division, is killed when the helicopter in which he is travelling is shot down. He was the most senior U.S. officer to be killed in action in the war to date.

Nov 14 2001 – War in Afghanistan: Afghan Northern Alliance fighters take over the capital Kabul.
- Nov 15 1777 – American Revolution: After 16 months of debate the Continental Congress approves the Articles of Confederation.

- Nov 15 1864 – Civil War: Union General W.T. Sherman's troops set fires that destroy much of Atlanta Georgia as he began his march to the sea in an effort to cut the Confederacy in two.

- Nov 15 1917 – WWI: USS Cassin (DD 43) is torpedoed by German submarine U 61 off the coast of Ireland. In trying to save the ship, Gunner's Mate 1st Class Osmond Kelly Ingram is killed. Ingram is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism and, in 1919, becomes the first enlisted man to have a ship named for him.


- Nov 15 1943 – WW2: Heinrich Himmler makes public an order that Gypsies and those of mixed Gypsy blood are to be put on “the same level as Jews and placed in concentration camps.”


- Nov 15 1955 – The Navy sets the world speed record for the 500 km closed circuit course at Muroc, Calif. when Lt. Gordon Gray flies an A–4D Skyhawk at 695.163 mph.

- Nov 15 1960 – Cold War: The first submarine with nuclear missiles, USS George Washington, takes to sea from Charleston, South Carolina.


• Nov 15 1993 USS Hurricane (PC 3) is commissioned at Naval Air Station North Island, Calif. The Cyclone–class patrol craft is the first Navy ship to be named Hurricane. Originally homeported at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., the patrol craft moved to Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va. in 2005 and is now homeported at Naval Support Activity Bahrain.

• Nov 15 1994 – USS Zephyr (PC 8) is commissioned at Corpus Christi, Texas. The Cyclone–class patrol craft is the first to be named for a light wind from the west. The patrol craft is operated by the Coast Guard in 2004, responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil rig fire in 2010. Zephyr is returned to the Navy in 2011 and is now homeported in Mayport, Fla.

[Source: Various Oct 2018 ++]