



This
MONTH in
military
history ...

- 1836:** Alamo defenders call for help
- 1862:** General Ulysses S. Grant provides the first major Union victory of the war when he captures Fort Henry on the Tennessee River.
- 1917:** Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare
- 1941:** Rommel goes to Africa
- 1944:** U.S. troops capture the Marshall Islands
- 1950:** Klaus Fuchs arrested for passing atomic bomb information to Soviets
- 1961:** The United States Air Forces begins Operation Looking Glass, and over the next 30 years, a "Doomsday Plane" is always in the air.
- 1965:** U.S. warns North Vietnam of forthcoming bombing operations.
- 1989:** The last Soviet armored column leaves Kabul.
- 1991:** Operation Desert Storm ejects Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The ASC History Newsletter

The Fort Dearborn Massacre

The Battle of Fort Dearborn, often referred to as the Fort Dearborn Massacre, was an engagement between United States troops and members of the Potawatomi Tribe that occurred on Aug. 15, 1812, near Fort Dearborn in what is now Chicago, but was then part of the Illinois Territory. The battle, which occurred during the War of 1812, followed the evacuation of the fort as ordered by General William Hull, commander of the United States Army of the Northwest.



The battle lasted only about 15 minutes and resulted in a complete victory for the Native Americans. The fort was burned down and the soldiers and settlers who survived were taken captive.

On June 18, 1812, the United States declared war on the British Empire, and on July 17, British forces captured Fort Mackinac located on what is now the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. On July 29, received news of the fall of Fort Mackinac and immediately sent orders to evacuate Fort Dearborn, fearing that it could no longer be adequately supplied with provisions.

In his letter to Captain Nathan Heald, which arrived at Fort Dearborn on Aug. 9, Hull ordered Heald to destroy all the arms and ammuni-

tion and give the remaining goods to friendly Indians in the hope of attaining an escort to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Hull also sent a copy of these orders to Fort Wayne with additional instructions to provide Heald with all the information, advice and assistance within their power.

In the following days, the sub-Native American agent at Fort Wayne, Captain William Wells, who was the uncle of Heald's wife, Rebekah, assembled a group of about 30 Miami Native Americans. Wells, Corporal Walter K. Jordan, and the Miamis traveled to Fort Dearborn to provide an escort for the evacuees.

Wells arrived at Fort Dearborn on Aug. 12 or 13 (sources differ), and on August 14, Heald conducted a council with the Potawatomi leaders to inform them of his intention to evacuate the fort. The Native Ameri-

cans thought Heald said he would distribute the firearms, ammunition, provisions and whiskey amongst them, and that, if they would send a band of Potawatomis to escort them safely to Fort Wayne, he would pay them a large sum of money. However, Heald ordered all the surplus arms, ammunition and liquor destroyed "fearing that [the Native Americans] would make bad use of it if put in their possession." On Aug. 14, a Potawatomi chief called Black Partridge warned Heald that the young men of the tribe intended to attack, and that he could no longer restrain them.

At 9:00 a.m. on Aug. 15, the garrison — comprising, according to Heald's report, 54 U.S. regulars, 12 militia, nine women and 18 children — departed Fort Dearborn en route to Fort Wayne. About one and-a-half miles south of the fort, a band of Potawatomi warriors ambushed the garrison. Heald surrendered to the Native Americans who took them as prisoners to their camp near Fort Dearborn. In his report, Heald detailed the American loss at 26 regulars, all 12 of the militia, two women and twelve children killed.

The other 28 regulars, seven women and six children, were taken prisoner.

The Evolution of APS

In late 1990 Iraqi forces occupied the Kingdom of Kuwait. The CENTCOM commander envisioned a large sweeping envelopment that would cut off the Iraqi armed forces. This new plan required far more equipment than what was already on the ground in Saudi Arabia. Where would the equipment come from? The most ready stock of equipment was in the old POMCUS (Prepositioning Of Materiel Configured In Unit Sets) stocks in Europe. But, until directed by DA, the European leadership refused to release their stocks, despite the end of the Cold War.

After Operation Desert Storm was over, the Army reviewed its response to Iraqi aggression. One conclusion was that the Army needed to transfer war reserve equipment from the theaters to Department of the Army level. Another conclusion was that war reserve materiel had to be afloat so it could be delivered quickly to a hot spot. In implementing these conclusions, responsibility for war reserves was assigned to AMC.

In October 1993 DA directed that AMC take responsibility for the new war reserve afloat program. In May 1994 DA directed that POMCUS stocks in Europe transfer to AMC by 1 October 1995. The same month DA directed that 3rd Army War Reserves in CENTCOM transfer to AMC by mid FY96. By the end of FY95 the Strategic Mobility Logistics Base was also managing some CENTCOM war reserves stock in Kuwait and Qatar. In 1996 the Army War Reserve Support Command (AWRSPTCMD) was formed at Rock Island to manage war reserves.

It is hard to imagine at times how small the initial staff was. A dozen employees initially staffed AWRSPTCMD, while about 30 employees ran the program that became the Combat Equipment Group-Afloat. From these humble beginnings came a revolution in the way the Army would engage in expeditionary warfare. Over the next several years the war reserve program, now called Army Prepositioned Stocks, became a much more agile

and responsive force. More and more APS equipment was uploaded onto ships that were always within a week's sailing time for possible hot spots. By 1996 AMC had begun the buildup of ground based stocks in SWA. In Korea the Combat Equipment Battalion-Northeast Asia began work to improve the condition of stocks in the Far East and make it more responsive to the 'fight as you are' environment on the peninsula. In Europe CEG-E became part of the AWRSPTCMD and began a long term process to resize their stocks.

This was the structure on 11 September 2001 when the U.S. was attacked. Within days the Army was responding. Training tempo increased in SWA. What enabled the increased tempo was the rapidly maturing management of APS in Kuwait and Qatar. When the invasion of Iraq kicked off, the Army units attacking were almost completely equipped with stocks issued to them by the only seven-year-old APS team headquartered at Rock Island. DA decisions had paid off.