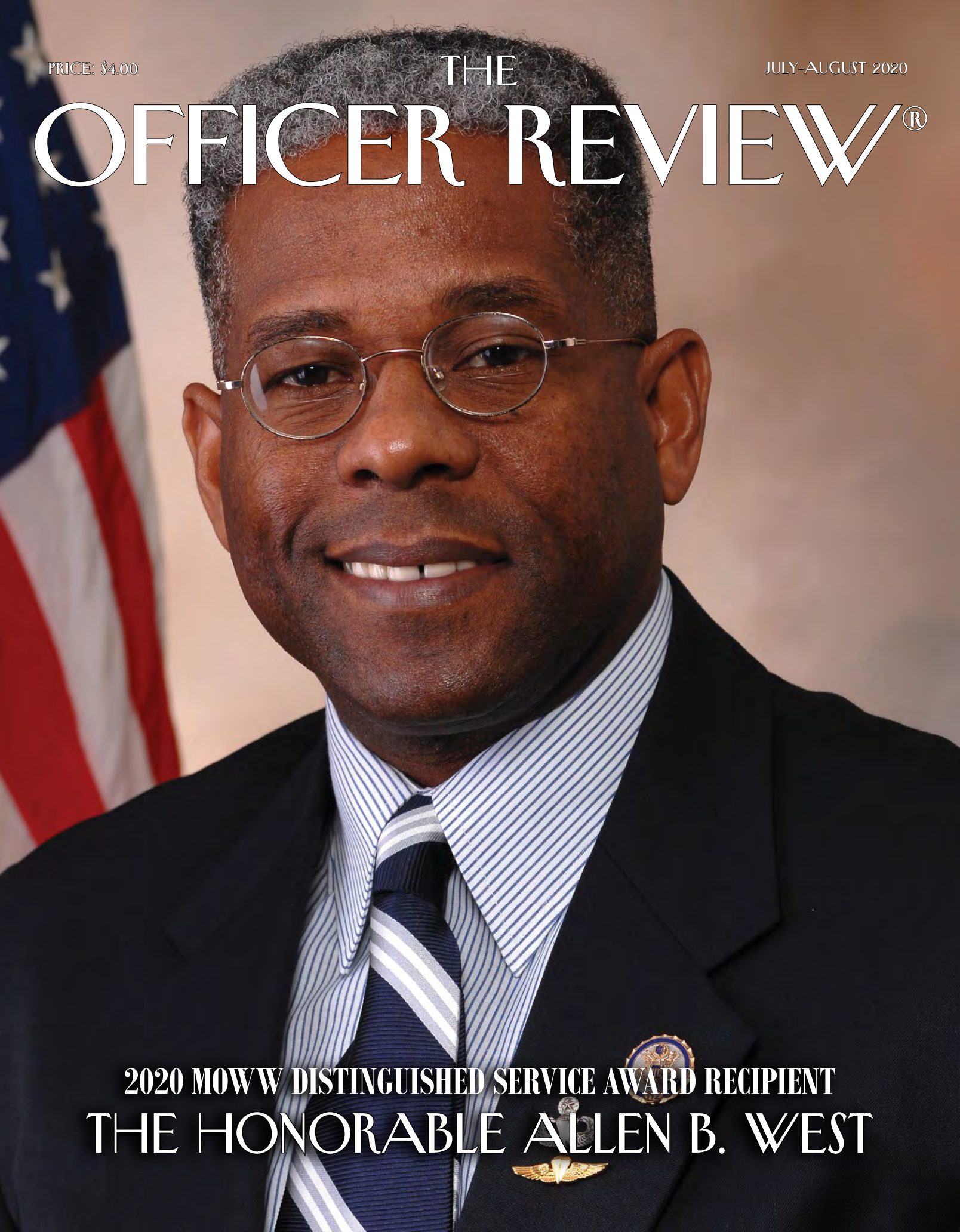


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JULY-AUGUST 2020

# THE OFFICER REVIEW®



2020 MOWW DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT  
THE HONORABLE ALLEN B. WEST





## THANKS

Dear Companions,

During our 2019 Convention, I was honored to be elected and installed as the 89th Commander-in-Chief of this proud Order. As the Operating Year began, the senior staff had focused plans and objectives designed for the Good of the Order to save chapters, grow membership, and enhance Companion participation. As we moved through 2019 into 2020, we were making good progress. However, in March 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the world. As events unfolded, I ultimately decided that for the safety and health of all our Companions, MOWW should not meet in person during April-May. For the same reasons, in June the EXCOM made the tough decision to cancel our 2020 convention.

During these 60 days, the chapters continued their programs as best they could, using emails, newsletters, teleconferencing, videoconferences and other electronic means to continue operations. I thank each of them for their loyalty and dedication to our Preamble, as well as for accepting the restrictions placed on them by me in innovative ways. When I had to ask the EXCOM to help resolve difficulties some chapters were having in meeting basic Policy Manual requirements, I'm happy to report the EXCOM addressed these issues and made the right decisions. Also, on the upside, the Tiger Team concept worked, with 45% success in helping chapters renew their recruiting efforts. Regrettably, the Pandemic affected our efforts for the last three months of the operating year. Regardless, I send a much-deserved thanks to those Tiger Teams for the results they achieved with the chapters. In addition, with great pride, I can report that the CINC Solicitation Fund donations have set an Order record, exceeding \$130,000! Words are not adequate to tell you how much I appreciate your generosity this year.

In closing, I had an awesome senior staff. I send my heartfelt thanks to them for being so responsive—at every opportunity. To SVCINC BGen Fred Lopez, VCINC BG Victor Perez, VCINC LTC Michael Okin, VCINC CPT Paula Mitchell, VCINC Maj Bob Williams and IPCINC LTC John Hollywood, I cannot thank you enough. Most importantly, to the Chief, Brig Gen Art Morrill, how in the world do I thank you for your invaluable counsel throughout the many challenges the Order faced this operating year. Despite the challenges, we never failed to come to a mutual agreement for the Good of the Order. Last, since I can't say thank you to Companions at the convention, I'll say it here, "Thanks for the privilege of serving as your CINC—and for the memories."

*Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr.*

LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, USA (Ret)  
Commander-in-Chief  
The Military Order of the World Wars

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## FEATURES

- |  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| <b>LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, USA (Ret)</b>    | 2  | CINC's Perspective<br><i>Thanks</i>  |
|  | 4  | 2020 Distinguished Service Award Recipient<br><i>The Honorable Allen B. West</i> |
| <b>BG Raymond E. Bell, Jr., USA (Ret)</b>      | 5  | Feature Article<br><i>Disease-Ending Campaigns</i>                               |
| <b>CAPT Thomas J. Marshall, Jr., USN (Ret)</b> | 12 | Feature Article<br><i>The Battle That Saved the Revolution</i>                   |
| <b>LTC Carlton R. Witte, USA (Ret)</b>         | 16 | Feature Article<br><i>The Battle of Cooch's Bridge</i>                           |
|  | 19 | Armed Forces Anniversary<br><i>US Coast Guard Celebrates 230 Years</i>           |

## DEPARTMENTS

- |   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| <b>Brig Gen Arthur B. Morrill III, USAF (Ret)</b> | 20 | Chief's Notes<br><i>Leaders Make Good Stuff Happen</i> |
| <b>CPT (DR) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Fmr)</b>       | 21 | Surgeon's Tent<br><i>Let's Get To It</i>               |
| <b>LTC Cheryl D. Brady, USA (Ret)</b>             | 22 | Chaplain's Pulpit<br><i>God Is Our Strength</i>        |
|   | 23 | Chapters in Action                                     |
|   | 29 | VA: Have You Heard?                                    |
|   | 30 | Companion Roll Call<br><i>Reveille</i><br><i>Taps</i>  |
|   | 32 | Authors Wanted<br><i>Your Voice, Your Magazine</i>     |



## ON THE COVER

The Honorable Allen B. West was chosen by CINC LTC Chamberlin as the Order's 2020 Distinguished Service Award Recipient.



## THE HONORABLE ALLEN B. WEST

Allen West was born and raised in Atlanta, GA, in the same neighborhood where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once preached. He is the third of four generations of military servicemen, all combat veterans, in his family.

West was commissioned through ROTC at the University of Tennessee as a Second Lieutenant on 31 July 1982. He entered active duty service in the US Army on 1 November 1983. His first assignment was as an airborne infantry company fire support team leader and battalion training officer in the 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Battalion Combat Team.

In 1987, he was promoted to Captain and assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, where he commanded Bravo Battery, 6<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, and was a Battalion Task Force fire support officer for 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. While with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, he participated in Operations Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

After redeployment from Kuwait, CPT West served as an ROTC instructor at Kansas State University. In 1995, he was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Support Command as the Assistant Operations/Combat Plans Officer. During that time, he was promoted to Major and selected for attendance to the US Army Command and General Staff College; he graduated in 1997. He then became the Operations Officer of the 18<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade (Airborne), followed by his assignment as the Executive Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Air Assault), 377<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment. Upon completion of these positions, West was assigned to the II Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Lejeune and selected to serve as an Army exchange officer to this headquarters from 1999 to 2002.

West's culminating assignment to his career was as Battalion Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 20<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He assumed command of this unit on 6 June 2002. He deployed with his unit during the Iraq War in 2003 and



continued to command his battalion until his retirement from the Army in 2004 after 22 years of honorable service.

West's awards and decorations include: the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Commendation Medal (one Valor Device; three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Achievement Medal (two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Valorous Unit Award; Air Assault Badge; and the Master Parachutist Badge. LTC West

proudly wears the US Army Master Parachutist Badge, the US Army Air Assault Badge, the Navy/Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia, the Italian Parachutist Wings, and the German Proficiency Badge, Bronze.

In November of 2010, Allen continued serving his country when he was elected to the US Congress, representing Florida's 22<sup>nd</sup> District. As a member of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, West introduced seven major pieces of legislation, and was the original sponsor of H. R. 1246, which reduced costs in the Department of Defense, and which passed unanimously and was signed into law by President Obama as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. Congressman West voted for the Balanced Budget Amendment and voted for over 30 different bills designed to empower small businesses, reduce government barriers to job creation, boost American competitiveness, encourage entrepreneurship and growth, and maximize American energy production.

West holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) and two Masters, one from Kansas State University and another from the US Army Command and General Staff College.

He is a Fox News contributor, Senior Fellow of the Media Research Center, former Director of the Booker T. Washington Initiative (BTWI) for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and author of three books. He is the former Executive Director of the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas, TX. ★





# DISEASE-ENDING CAMPAIGNS

BG RAYMOND E. BELL, JR., USA (RET)  
BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT-LARGE), MOWW

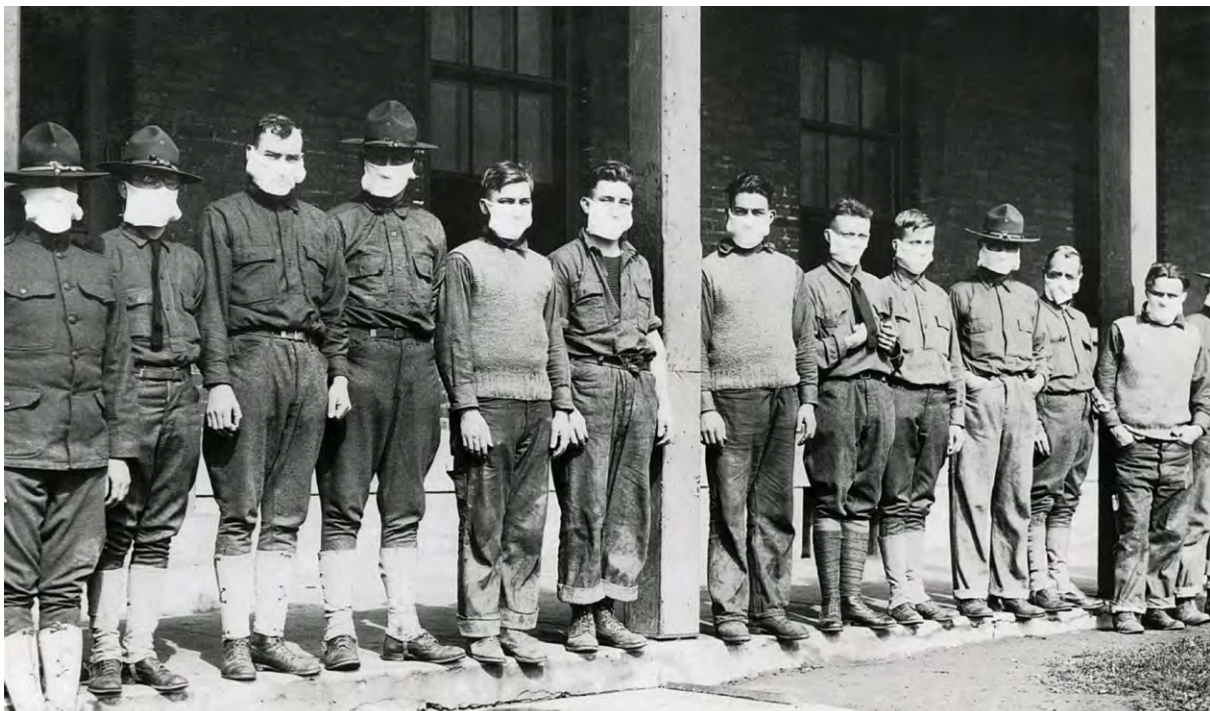
For centuries, combat involved battle wound and disease casualties, with both often ending in death. Deaths from disease outpaced deaths resulting from bullets, shot, bayonet or sword, and sometimes in grotesque proportions. Campaigns were lost where a large combination of wounds and disease were responsible, but few campaigns failed where disease was the major overriding factor.

Today disease sees little influence on the course of military action. Modern sanitary measures and effective treatment have relegated disease to a minor role in military campaigns. Disease, really a form of biological warfare, has not yet been weaponized to the point where campaign planners seriously consider it as a practical course of action. Nevertheless, research is ongoing to identify effective countermeasures in the event an adversary resorts to the employment of biological means, to include transmission of incapacitating diseases to combatants.

This essay on military campaigns that ended principally by epidemics of disease supplies context for understanding the historical impact of extreme sickness on significant operations. It focuses on a period when there was little understanding of how diseases were transmitted and how they affected armies. But the most important lesson from this exposition is that the future potential for the terrible widespread impact of disease epidemics should not go unheeded regardless the environment.

## Impact of Disease on Warfare

Massive epidemics of disease have occurred for thousands of years and they significantly affected mankind. For example, in 1348, the Black Death killed four million people in England, one-half of the country's population. While that epidemic was not related to military action, others were. For example, sieges often ended because of sickness brought on by unsanitary conditions that fostered



Staff at a military hospital wearing masks during the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918–1919. Source: Library of Congress.



diseases such as cholera, plague, typhus, typhoid fever, smallpox, yellow fever, and malaria. While few military campaigns ended exclusively because of disease, disease was still a crucial factor.

Over the years but especially in the past few centuries, statistics show the impact of disease on military campaigns decreased. However, in select cases the impact differed markedly between combatants. For example, in the 1870 Franco-Prussian War, 20,000 unvaccinated French soldiers died from various diseases. The Prussians, who rigorously enforced good sanitation practices, lost only 261 men to disease. In the 1904–1905 Russo-Japanese War siege of Port Arthur, the Japanese valued cleanliness and good water quality and so fared well, while the Russian garrison was forced to surrender due to thousands of Russian soldiers being sick with beriberi.

In the United States, statistics show the rapid decline of disease in combat over the past centuries. An American report in 1945 noted that

in World War II, less than one man out of every thousand died of disease each year. During World War I, 19 out of every 1,000 soldiers died per year while in the Spanish-American War, it was 26 out of every 1,000. In the American Civil War, it was 65 out of every 1,000.

Despite these levels of sickness, none of these wars' important major campaigns ended exclusively because of disease. In fact, campaigns with grand objectives appear to have ceased completely collapsing because of disease in the years after the middle of the nineteenth century. Four campaigns, three of which resulted in major failure because of disease epidemics, inform the horrific impact that disease had on military operations during the noted time frame.

## The American Failure to Capture Canada

Americans missed an opportunity to make Canada a part of the aborning nation because of the then dreaded disease of smallpox. One



Illustration by Sydney Adamson. Half-tone plate engraved by J. W. Evans.  
THE EMBARKATION OF MONTGOMERY'S TROOPS AT CROWN POINT

The embarkation of General Montgomery's troops at Crown Point. During the American Revolutionary War, Crown Point was important for its strategic location on the west shore of Lake Champlain about 15 miles north of Fort Ticonderoga. After the failure of the American invasion of Canada in 1776, Crown Point was the northernmost area under American control. Drawn by Sydney Adamson; half-tone plate engraved by J. W. Evans; published in *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine*. New York: The Century Co., 1902 Nov., p. 77.



observer hypothesized that conquest of the then British colony could have extended the nascent United States to the North Pole well before the Alaska Territory was acquired. The joint invasion of Canada by forces of Brigadier General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold failed because smallpox effectively ended the viability of the campaign after Montgomery and Arnold joined forces before Quebec in December and after Montreal's capture on 13 November 1775.

The American plan at the beginning of the Revolutionary War consisted of two parts. One was to resist the British wherever possible. The second was to hold fast to the Hudson River line in the New York colony. But at the same time, the possibility existed of taking advantage of the significant French population presence in Canada by inciting it to rebel against the British colony. Such a successful campaign would also negate a British advance down the Hudson River corridor to split the American colonies.

The campaign got underway late in the year when Montgomery with the main contingent advanced from New York's Lake Champlain in Montreal. It was also a time when inoculation of the then colonial army against smallpox had not yet been widely pursued. While under General Washington's leadership, a later effort to effectively vaccinate the troops was successful. At the time of the 1775 campaign, such a preventive measure had not yet been initiated.

After Montgomery had defeated any British force before Montreal, he was to advance on Quebec where he was to join forces with Arnold. Arnold,

commanding a force of 1,100 men, advanced through forests of Maine and joined Montgomery in front of Quebec, which they besieged. But success was already doomed because an enfeebled American contingent was unable to dislodge the well-entrenched British in Quebec.

The American force, rife with smallpox, was just too small to conduct the mission and in the spring of 1776, what remained of it retreated into the colonies. The consequences of the campaign's failure in which smallpox played such a significant role were further reaching than just the capture of Quebec. It was the disease that defeated the campaign to separate Canada from Great Britain's hold.



Colonel (later Major General) Benedict Arnold (14 January 1741–14 June 1801). As a colonel, he arrived in Quebec in November 1775. He joined General Richard Montgomery's small army and took part in the 31 December assault on Quebec City in which Montgomery was killed and Arnold's leg was shattered. Arnold was promoted to brigadier general for his role in reaching Quebec. Later, declared a traitor for having tried to surrender the West Point fortifications to the British, he eventually moved to and died in London. Portrait by Thomas Hart, 1776.

solely to sickness.

In 1799, Napoleon led an expedition into the then Ottoman Empire principality of Syria, today part of Israel, which ended at the fortified town of Acre. Before that in 1798, the Ottoman Empire had declared war on France and so Napoleon convinced the French Directory to launch a campaign to capture Egypt, which was part of the Ottoman Empire. Victory would provide a way to

## The 1799 Napoleonic Syrian Plague Defeat

Several years after the American disease-ridden debacle before Quebec, a previously victorious Napoleon Bonaparte experienced a military campaign defeat at the hands of a disease. He was to be defeated at other times in his illustrious wartime career, but there was only one campaign loss that can be attributed



thwart the English in governing their own Indian Empire while establishing France as a power in the eastern Mediterranean and enabling an attack on the seat of Ottoman power with the potential of dismantling it. There was, however, a big obstacle: the British fleet commanded by Admiral Horatio Nelson. In the battle of the Nile on 1 August 1798, Nelson's fleet caught the French fleet at anchor and demolished it, thereby theoretically cutting off reinforcements for Napoleon from continental France.

Napoleon was nevertheless undeterred in his aim. Although partially stymied by the destruction of the French fleet, he launched his Syrian campaign in January of the next year. He did so after decisively beating the Ottoman Mamluk cavalry at the Battle of the Pyramids, after which he took Cairo on 22 July 1798. On 31 January 1799, Napoleon set his force of four divisions of foot amounting to 10,000 soldiers with 3,000 others in support in motion towards Syria by advancing on

the Sinai Peninsula town of El Arish.

Between 14 and 15 February, General Reynier's division routed the Ottoman troops under Achmed Pasha at El Arish after taking the village by storm. On 21 February, the French were on the move to Gaza, where they arrived on 25 February. They then went ahead to Jaffa, arriving on 3 March. Napoleon's army had the momentum of victory going for it as it breached the Ottoman defenses at Jaffa on 7 March, taking 2,000 Turkish prisoners who, on Napoleon's order, were executed. The massacre stained the name of Napoleon and served to subject him to opprobrium by friend and foe alike but which he justified as an expedient. He argued he had no means of feeding or confining them and that given the high caliber of the enemy, if its seasoned troops were released to fight again, they would jeopardize his advance. Thus was set the scene for a decisive battle at the next Ottoman fortress, the coastal town of Acre, in today's Israel.



Siege of Acre (1799). Unknown artist.



Acre was besieged from 17 March to 20 May, during which time the Ottomans attempted to lift its encirclement and prevent its capture. Napoleon directed his heavy artillery to begin pounding the heavily fortified town. The garrison was not to be easily beaten as the fortress's fortifications proved insurmountable. At the same time, a more determinate matter was seriously thwarting Napoleon's plans, that of disease, specifically the plague.

The advance north into the Turkish heartland and the taking of Constantinople to overthrow the existing Ottoman Empire and form a new one with Napoleon at its head became a chimera. But for the raging plague epidemic and the loss of 3,000 of his 10,000-man force, Napoleon might well have continued his expedition into modern Turkey. As it was, he turned his troops around and returned to Egypt, his campaign a failure. Ten years later, the British lost a significant campaign for a similar reason, a disease that virtually destroyed their expeditionary force.

## The 1809 Walcheren Disease Disaster

The Napoleonic Wars saw Great Britain engaging the French Empire principally at sea but also in Spain and Portugal. The French Continental System, designed as a counterpoint to British control of the seas and having severe economic implications for the countries under Napoleon's rule, was subjected to a British naval blockade of extensive proportions. At the same time, after the defeat of the French and Spanish fleet in 1805 at Trafalgar, the French Navy struggled to rebuild. One of its principal shipbuilding enterprises was near the then Dutch port of Antwerp, to which

access from the North Sea was gained via passage using the Scheldt estuary. There, in 1809, the French were reconstituting a fleet when the British took note and decided to destroy the vessels before a new fleet could be launched. To conduct the mission meant having to get past the large fortified island of Walcheren at the sea entrance to the Scheldt, which would require a joint land and sea campaign.

At the time, the British were heavily involved in fighting the French in Spain and were campaigning elsewhere in the world. The threat of a new French fleet to the safety of the British Isles, however, was greater than that of any land force engaged on the continental landmass. The threat of a naval revival was large enough for the British government to plan and execute a major campaign to eliminate another French fleet.

In the summer of 1809, the British assembled a force of 40,000 troops, the largest expedition ever to leave British soil,

and dispatched it across the North Sea to destroy the French fleet abuilding. General John Pitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Chatham, commanded the army, while Sir Richard Strachan commanded the navy. The full expeditionary force of 37 ships, the greatest which had ever left England, left The Downs on 28 July. The British, however, had more than weather, terrain, or French troops to contend with. The island of Walcheren, upon which a major landing was to be made, was a vast marshland rife with deadly diseases, a combination of malaria, typhus, and typhoid fever.

Choppy waves and brisk wind initially stymied the landing, which was opposed by a growing number



Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French (15 August 1769–5 May 1821). "Bonaparte at Cairo." Painting by Jean-Léon Gérôme. Princeton University Art Museum.



of well-positioned and cannon-supported French troops. While the British were unable to effect that landing as desired, the force that did get ashore became exposed to what became known as the Walcheren Fever. What followed was a disaster as the British were unable to approach the French fleet construction location. Moreover, the longer they were on Walcheren Island the more casualties they amassed—not from actual combat, but from disease.

The British campaign was finally aborted with hideous casualties caused by the fever. Of the 40,000 soldiers deployed, 10,000 died of disease. Half of the remaining soldiers became sick, many to the point of complete disablement. On the other hand, only 106 British soldiers died of battle wounds. The limited fighting resistance put up by the French contingent of 4,000 troops was aided by having the advantage of disease working for it.

The Walcheren campaign ended as a disaster for the British. While other factors contributed to the British defeat, it was the Walcheren Fever, a combination of diseases, that was decisive in the campaign being abandoned. It was, in sum, one of the costliest British defeats in all their battles with Napoleon's French Empire.

## A Disease Disaster Avoided

While a combination of wound and disease casualties has been present over the years, examples of campaigns avoiding catastrophe from disease are hard to find. Good generalship, where the commander took proper and prompt action to avoid defeat from disease by taking appropriate measures, is also difficult to find. However, one example of such generalship in American military history stands out in a campaign where the foe

was counting on disease to defeat its United States adversary and drive it from its shores, but it didn't.

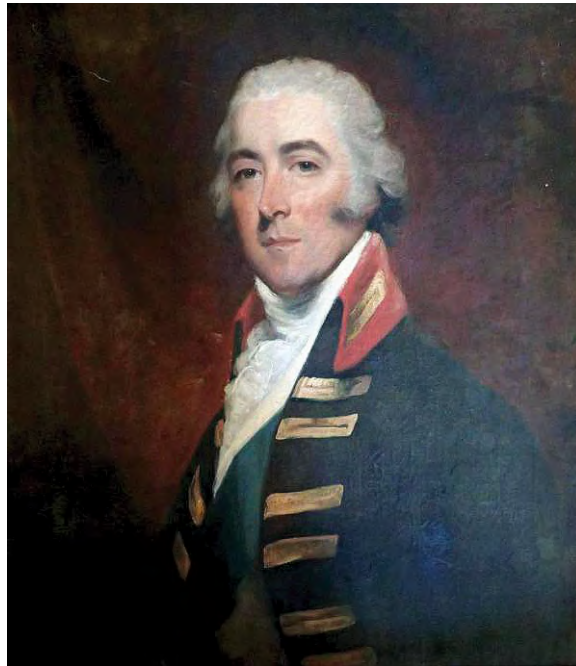
American President James K. Polk charged then-Major General Winfield Scott, who commanded the United States Army in 1846, with advancing a force of Regular Army troops and volunteers to capture Mexico City after landing from the Gulf of Mexico. He was to begin the campaign in February 1847, a campaign that from a health point of view,

was the best time of year to start such an endeavor. Scott carefully noted the hazards he could expect to meet, among them being the yellow fever disease, which at the time was prevalent in the region.

His point of entry to Mexico was near the coastal city of Vera Cruz, which was in a belt of shoreland rife with mosquitoes bearing yellow fever. The Mexican resistance counted on holding the American invading force as long as possible in the vicinity of Vera Cruz so the impact of the disease on the Americans would greatly reduce their strength by prolonged

exposure of their troops to the deadly fever. If the Americans could be held in place long enough, the reduction in force might cause them to abandon the campaign. It was not necessary to defeat the Americans in battle, the Mexicans thought, only delay them long enough for the debilitating disease to take its disastrous effect.

Knowing speed in getting off the infested coast was essential, Scott gathered what forces he could, but he did not wait for all the troops he considered necessary. He also closely coordinated with the Navy to ensure his forces' swift off-loading on the beaches and made detailed plans to reduce opposition by in-place Mexican fortifications around Vera Cruz. Still, he was



General John Pitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Chatham, KG, PC (9 October 1756–24 September 1835). Studio of John Hoppner. From the collection of the Royal Marines Commando Forces, Stonehouse Barracks.



not able to engage the Mexicans until 22 March, which was approaching the time when disease would start taking a major toll on his troops. It took until 26 March to force the surrender of the town and its fort and allow Scott to begin his march on Mexico City. The win cost him 67 men killed and wounded, but although he was ahead of the worst of the potential problem, thousands of men eventually ended up in the hospital afflicted with disease. Scott's quick resolution of the coastal yellow fever threat nevertheless saved his entire campaign.

## A Summary of Outcomes

While history reveals few examples where a campaign principally ended because of disease epidemics, more common is military campaigns suffering because combatants contracted and died from disease, often more so than from wounds. However, there are a few examples where forward-thinking actions countered the debilitating effects of disease during military campaigns.

As an example of prompt, forward-thinking, General Winfield Scott recognized the yellow fever disease threat in 1847 and took decisive measures to avoid losing the campaign against the Mexicans in front of Vera Cruz. His success was the result of fortunate timing and appreciation for the potential ravages of disease. He went on to capture the City of Mexico having mostly escaped debilitating losses from yellow fever on the coast.

On the other hand, Brigadier General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold's American force suffered grievously from smallpox, losing more than half its strength in the 1775 campaign against Great Britain in Canada. When it came to besieging Quebec after Montgomery's capture of Montreal, smallpox had taken such a

toll on American manpower that the attempt to capture ended in failure.

In another example, Napoleon's intent to dismantle the Ottoman Empire went unfulfilled in Syria when disease thwarted his capture of the fortress at Acre. Although his advance had gained momentum after defeating the Turks at Jaffa, he could not exploit it at Acre. There, in his first major campaign defeat, his army became so depleted by the plague that he was not strong enough to advance further north and achieve his aim.

At Walcheren, a badly mismanaged British amphibious campaign resulted in a tenth of the landing force being dead from disease and most of the remaining force of the original 40,000 in the hospital sick. The French fleet being constructed at Antwerp remained untouched and never became a naval threat to Britain. Although the campaign was a dismal failure, fortunately it had negligible impact on British naval operations. Nevertheless, the defeat was a major black eye for a nation which, with its allies, produced the defining victory at Waterloo in 1815.



Major General Winfield Scott at Vera Cruz, 25 March 1847. Copy of lithograph by Nathaniel Currier, 1847. Source: NARA FILE #: 111-SC-496992 War & Conflict Book #: 102.

## Closing Thoughts

Over the years, major military campaigns defeated by crippling disease have diminished to the point where they have become inconsequential. As the three cited examples show, however, disease was the key factor in ending those major campaigns. However, the important lesson is that disease as a weapon, even in a domestic situation, is not to be underrated or dismissed because it has the potential for being a critical major factor in any environment. ★







"George Washington before the Battle of Trenton," ca. 1792-94, by John Trumbull



# THE BATTLE THAT SAVED THE REVOLUTION

CAPT THOMAS J. MARSHALL, JR., USN, (RET)  
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CA

Most historians would agree the American Revolutionary War's turning point occurred at Saratoga, NY, on 17 October 1777. There, General John Burgoyne surrendered his battered and starving 4,500-man army to General Horatio Gates. Saratoga not only thwarted the British grand strategy to divide New England from the rest of the colonies and defeat each separately, it also set forces in motion that brought France into the war on the side of the Americans and eventually led to an American victory.

These events would not have occurred were it not for a battle from 25-26 December 1776. This battle at Trenton, NJ, saved the American Revolution. To understand how the Battle of Trenton saved the Revolution, we must understand the events of 1776 and their strategic and psychological impacts.

On 6 March 1776, American forces achieved their first significant victory when they forced General Thomas Gage's British forces in Boston to abandon the city and sail to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Immediately after this event, General George Washington, commander of the American forces, withdrew his army from around Boston and marched them to New York, which he rightly saw as the next British target since it was the largest and most prosperous city in the colonies. On 29 June 1776, Washington's strategic sense was confirmed when a large British Fleet of 45 combat vessels arrived in New York harbor. The following day, a second fleet of 82 transport vessels and escorts arrived and disembarked the first 9,000 troops on Staten Island that in six weeks would become an army of 32,000 highly-trained, well-armed and



"Battle of Trenton," by H. Charles McBarron, Jr. in 1975. Date: 26 December 1776. Location: Trenton, NJ. Source: US Army Center of Military History.



experienced British and Hessian soldiers.

Then, on 22 August 1776, the British commander, General William Howe, led his men across the Narrows to land at Gravesend Bay, in what is now Brooklyn but was then known as Long Island. These men marched northward toward Brooklyn Heights, where they began to soundly defeat the American army. General Washington evacuated the survivors across the East River to Manhattan at night under the cover of a providential fog and joined Battle of Brooklyn Heights survivors with the troops he left in New York to guard the city. This combined force then retreated northward to White Plains, NY.

During this retreat, Washington left a small garrison in the northwest corner of Manhattan to build a fort the garrison named Fort Washington. It was to control the confluence of the Hudson and Harlem Rivers. At White Plains, Washington fought a small and inconclusive battle with British forces following him. He then retreated across the Hudson to New Jersey. In New Jersey, his force built another fort opposite Fort Washington and named it Fort Lee after its commander, General Charles Lee. The Americans placed artillery and supplies into these forts to control the lower Hudson River.

On 16 November 1776, British and Hessian troops attacked and captured Fort Washington. They inflicted significant losses to American forces--59 killed, 96 wounded and 2,937 captured. The British also captured cannon, powder, and shot. The Americans could ill afford these losses. With the Fort Washington's loss, Washington realized Fort Lee no longer was strategically valuable, so he removed its stores and evacuated it.

However, before the evacuation was complete, the British crossed the Hudson and attacked on 18 November 1776. They quickly captured the fort and forced the evacuating garrison to flee for their lives and abandon its equipment. At Fort Lee, the



William Howe, 5<sup>th</sup> Viscount Howe, commander in chief of the British army in North America (1776–78). Source: The Anne S.K. Brown Military History Collection at Brown University.

British captured 150 cannon, 12,000 rounds of shot and shell, 2,800 muskets, and 400,000 musket cartridges. In addition, they captured the army's tents, spare clothing, food, and other equipment.

The American army retreated across New Jersey with only the clothes on their backs and the food and ammunition they could carry. The Americans were fortunate the British followed their retreat in a dilatory manner, often stopping to rest and install garrisons in towns along the way.

By mid-December 1776, when General Washington and his diminished army crossed into Pennsylvania, it was in a sorry

state. His troops were in rags, often unshod, hungry, and sleeping on the ground in the cold, rain, and snow. Morale was low due to the string of defeats they suffered over the preceding six months.

The army and the country were losing faith that they could defeat the powerful British forces arrayed against them. They began to believe the Declaration of Independence was a mistake. Most soldiers could leave the army on 1 January 1777 when their enlistments ran out. Few were planning to reenlist, and even fewer new recruits were arriving to bolster their ranks.

The Continental Congress felt threatened by the British advance across New Jersey and so had abandoned Philadelphia, the nation's capital, and retreated to Baltimore. Meanwhile, the Congress was supplying the army with few supplies, and its credit and currency were declining daily. In addition, the Congress was losing confidence in George Washington's military prowess such that members of Congress wanted to seek a replacement. In short, the Revolution and the new country it spawned were hanging by a thread.

George Washington was aware of these things. He realized only a victory could improve this situation.





Plan of Operations of General Washington against the King's Troops in New Jersey by William Faden, 1777. Source: Library of Congress Geography and Maps Division.

In late December 1776, he began planning a counterstroke. He decided the best strategy would be to attack one of the isolated British garrisons strewn across New Jersey. The one he chose was at Trenton, NJ, where two Hessian Regiments of 600 men each were billeted.

On the night of 25 December 1776, Washington brought his army of 2,400 men and 18 cannons across the ice-choked Delaware River in flat bottomed boats during a snowstorm. When his men reached the New Jersey shore at 0500 the next morning, they set out in two columns for Trenton, which was five miles away. In Trenton, the Hessians had canceled their normal early morning patrols since their men spent the night before celebrating Christmas. In addition, the weather was so horrible with its mixture of snow, sleet and rain that they felt enemy activity was unlikely.

At 0800, both of Washington's columns hit Trenton simultaneously, catching the Hessians by surprise. Although the Hessians tried to rally, Washington's troops overwhelmed them. After only two hours of fierce combat, the Hessians surrendered. Although 400 Hessian soldiers managed to escape, Washington's troops had killed 30, wounded 80 and captured 918 men and six cannons. Americans had only two wounded.

This far-reaching victory had an electric effect on the morale of the army and the nation. People began believing victory over England was possible. Soldiers whose enlistments were to expire in less than a week reenlisted in response to Washington's request for six more weeks.



"Hour of Victory," by Edward Percy Moran, portrays Washington and his troops marching towards Trenton (Mount Vernon Ladies' Association)

Washington led these men to a resounding victory at Princeton ten days later, which forced a British retreat from most of New Jersey except for two enclaves—one at New Brunswick and another at Perth Amboy—which they later abandoned in the spring of 1777. The victory at Trenton also restored Congress' faith in Washington's generalship. Shortly thereafter, Congress gave him near dictatorial powers in all army matters. He could determine the terms of enlistment, call on states to mobilize their militias under his command and requisition any supplies he saw fit without Congress' prior approval.

For the rest of the war, Washington's position as commander of the army remained unchallenged. After the battle, nearby states quickly mobilized their militias and placed them at Washington's disposal, something they were loath to do prior to the victory at Trenton. In addition, the number enlistments steadily increased, and the term of enlistment grew to three years. This enabled Washington to keep a stable core for his army for the rest of the war.

After Trenton, fighting dragged on for five more years. During this time, the army suffered defeats, never having enough soldiers or supplies and suffering untold privations. However, it never gave up. It fought on to final victory at Yorktown in October 1781 for two reasons. First, neither the army nor the country lost sight of their goals of freedom and liberty. Second, the army remained confident they could achieve victory on the battlefield, which resulted from the Trenton victory—the battle that saved the Revolution. ★



# THE BATTLE OF COOCH'S BRIDGE

LTC CARLTON R. WITTE, USA (RET)  
WILMINGTON CHAPTER, DE

History books often neglect the stories of lesser known battles in favor of the major conflicts. One such battle during the American Revolution was the only battle fought on Delaware soil, the Battle of Cooch's Bridge. On 3 September 1777, 16,000 British troops moved through New Castle County, DE, and engaged Colonial troops under Brigadier General William Maxwell. Generals Cornwallis and Howe led the British troops. British mercenaries, German Hessian troops, were under General Knyphausen.

After capturing New York City in 1776, the British planned to divide the colonies and end the rebellion. Lieutenant General William Howe's forces sailed from New York City to the Chesapeake Bay, where he intended to move on to Philadelphia. His army disembarked 50 miles south of Philadelphia near a town named "Head of Elk" (today known as Elkton, MD).

On the morning of 3 September 1777, a British advance party of about 9,000 light infantry and Hessian Jägers (also light infantry) under General Cornwallis moved across Elk Creek and occupied an area called "Iron Hill," a few miles from Thomas Cooch's home. The British advanced up the road from Aiken's Tavern (present-day Glasgow) to Old Cooch's Bridge Road. Pennsylvania and Delaware militia occupied Iron Hill.

Using hit and run tactics, the Americans harassed the British Army's lead forces. However, the 700 Colonials were outnumbered and outgunned. The Americans fell back to defensive positions across

Cooch's Bridge. American casualties at Cooches Bridge were 30 killed or wounded and 140 missing or captured. British casualties were 30 killed or wounded and 35 captured. General Cornwallis used the Cooch house as his headquarters for a week before moving his troops into southern Chester County, PA.

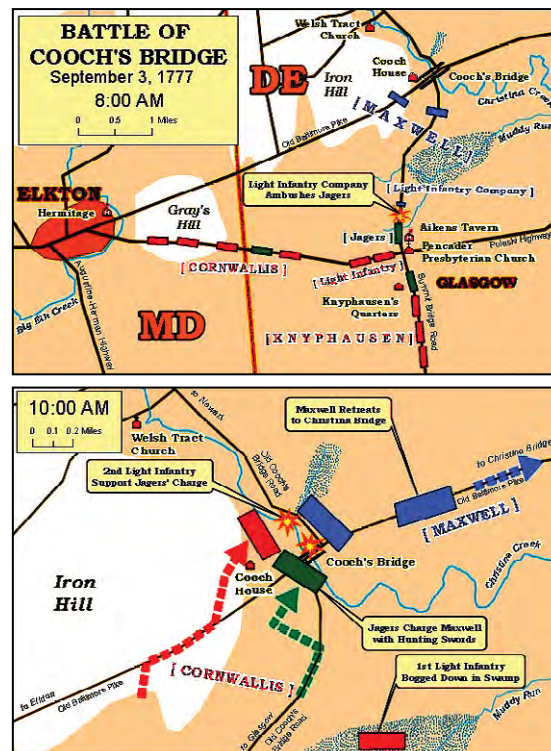
On 11 September 1777, General Sir William Howe and General Charles Cornwallis launch a full-scale British attack on General George Washington

and the Patriot outpost at Brandywine Creek near Chadds Ford, in Delaware County, PA, on the road linking Baltimore and Philadelphia.

Howe and Cornwallis split their 18,000 British troops into two separate divisions, with Howe leading an attack from the front and Cornwallis circling around and attacking from the right flank. Washington was unaware the British had split into two divisions and was caught off guard by the oncoming British attack.

Surprised and outnumbered by the 18,000 British troops to his 11,000 Continentals, Washington ordered his men to abandon their posts and retreat. Defeated, the Continental Army marched

north and camped at Germantown, PA. The British abandoned their pursuit of the Continentals and instead began the British occupation of Philadelphia. Congress, which had been meeting in Philadelphia, fled first to Lancaster, then to York, PA, and the British took control of the city without Patriot opposition.



The Fight at Cooch's Bridge from the Pencader Heritage Museum. Source: Wikipedia. Created by Sean Moir for the Pencader Heritage Area Museum in Newark, DE.



Perspectives differ as to how significant the encounter at Cooch's Bridge was. Some historians claim the battle was a skirmish with limited military impact. Wade P. Catts, a local historian, archeologist, and board member of the Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation with whom MOWW's Delaware Chapter has a formal affiliation, argues that participants in the battle said it was a "sharp but hard-fought and bloody engagement." Catts says two dozen were killed in the battle. Many of the men who fought at Cooche's Bridge went on to see action at Brandywine, Germantown, Trenton, and Princeton. They also endured the harsh winter encampment of 1777 at Valley Forge, PA.

The site of the battle has been Cooch's Bridge Historic District and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Companion LTC William M. Conley III, USA (Ret), of the Delaware Chapter, applied for and was granted permission to hold a Wreaths Across America ceremony there every 14 December to honor the 24 Colonial soldiers who were killed during the Battle of Cooch's Bridge and are buried in unmarked graves. Conley worked with the Newark O'Daniel VFW Post to donate two 30-foot flagpoles, from which now fly US and Delaware flags over the battlefield.

In September 1781, four years after the Battle of Cooches Bridge, General Washington's and General Rochambeau's forces marched through and camped at Cooch's Bridge en-route to Yorktown, VA, where the British were defeated, ending the Revolutionary War.

The Cooches Bridge Battlefield memorial site is on the trail of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R-US), which traces the 680-mile trek of American and French troops going

to Yorktown. It is designated a National Historic Trail by the National Park Service. Conley points out that the Cooch's Bridge site is one of only five stops along the W3R trail that look as they did in Colonial times.

In 2015, LTC Conley was chair of the project to erect a monument telling the story of and memorializing General Rochambeau, the regiments he commanded, and the assistance Rochambeau and the French provided the Continentals. The plaque erected there reads, "Americans are forever thankful to the French People for their critical support to our young nation and our fight for freedom." General Rochambeau's family attended. The site has also been visited by the French Ambassador and the German Embassy Military Attaché.

On 21 October 2018, LTC Conley planned and conducted another ceremony at Cooch's Bridge, this time honoring Germans who fought on the side of General Washington. During the ceremony, Conley stated, "Many have heard the story of the German Hessian involvement in support of the British during the American Revolutionary War. Few are aware of the many Germans who fought in support of American independence." On the British side were 30,000 Germans, including line regiments and elite Jägers, representing 33–37% of the British forces.

Serving with the Colonial  
Army was Prussian Major-  
General Friedrich von  
Steuben and French Army

General Rochambeau. Rochambeau commanded seven regiments, one of which was the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts. The regiment included French and German soldiers. To foster Franco-American cooperation against Great Britain, King Louis XV of France approved a plan named *expedition particuliere* to send an expeditionary force to America in



(Top): The Fight at Cooch's Bridge from the Pencader Heritage Musuem. (Below): Detail of a period military map depicting the preliminary British movements in the 1777 Philadelphia campaign in Maryland and Delaware, including the site (near Iron Hill) of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge. United States Library of Congress's Geography & Map Division.



1780 to assist the colonists' bid for independence. The Regiment had been formed in 1757 by Duke Christian IV of Pfalz Zweibrücken, Germany. Indebted to King Louis, the Duke pledged his army to the French.

By 1775, 100,000 Germans had entered the colonies, making up a third of Pennsylvania. After the war, 5,000 of the original 22,500 surviving Hessian soldiers remained in the new United States or moved to Canada. Many German troops from both sides ended up in Lancaster, PA.

The memorials at Cooch's Bridge were not LTC Conley's only initiatives. In 2018, he led a project to celebrate French General Lafayette's 1780 stay in the town of Christiana, DE, and the 1783 stand-down of the First Delaware Regiment there. State historical signs were installed in the town.

Discovering that a historical marker had been removed that honored General Lafayette who, in 1781, came through "Kings Highway" (today, Philadelphia Pike in Wilmington, DE), LTC Conley secured funding for a replacement. On 6 November 2019, he conducted a ceremony re-dedicating the historical marker. He also requested and received an American flag that flew over Lafayette's tomb in Picpus Cemetery, France. The flag is now on display at the Pencader Heritage Education Association Museum, located at the Cooches Bridge Memorial Park. The Association, of which Conley is an officer, was the catalyst that created the battlefield memorial.

In August 2019 Conley planned and supervised the creation and establishment of murals and signage in

Wilmington, DE, commemorating African American soldiers who marched through the area with Washington's and Lafayette's American and French soldiers. Conley worked with the Brandywine Village Partners, who funded the project. African American service in the Revolution was far more extensive than most people realize, with black combat soldiers and sailors numbering 5,000. Another 4,000 served in non-combat roles. The average length of service was four and a half years, eight times longer than the average white soldier. Quoting General Washington, Conley calls their service and their heroism to the cause "invaluable." When Washington was desperate for men willing to fight, black men volunteered to fill the ranks.

The African American Patriots who served the Continental Army found that the postwar military held no rewards for them. Discrimination was common. Even the United States Congress formally excluded African Americans from military service, allowing only "free, able-bodied white male citizens" to serve. Integrated units were not realized until the Korean War. Conley stated, "They did their part to earn not only their own freedom, but ours as well. Often misrepresented in our histories before, we owe it to them to make sure we include it now."

Conley's initiatives to memorialize American soldiers of all races, and their French and German allies, who fought and sacrificed at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge and later engagements, perfectly embodies a tenet of the MOWW Preamble: "To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars." ★



(Photo Top): Historical marker at the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Cooch's Bridge, DE. The marker and dedication were the initiative of Companion LTC William M. Conley III, USA (Ret) and the Pencader Heritage Education Association. (Below): Wilmington Chapter Companions LTC Joseph C. Effinger III, USA (Ret), and LTC Carlton Witte, USA (Ret), hold an American flag that flew over the tomb of General Lafayette in Picpus Cemetery, France. The French gifted the flag. The flag is now on display at the Pencader Heritage Education Association Museum at Cooch's Bridge Memorial Park. The historical marker honors Lafayette's march through Delaware in 1781. The flag was obtained, and the memorial service was planned and conducted by Companion LTC Bill Conley.





Since its launch in 2012, Operation Martillo (Spanish for “hammer”) has supported the seizure of 693 metric tons of cocaine and \$25 million in bulk cash, detained 1,863 suspects and 581 vessels and aircraft.

## **United States Coast Guard Founded 4 August 1790**



# LEADERS MAKE GOOD STUFF HAPPEN

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)  
CHIEF OF STAFF & COO, MOWW, INC.®

“Necessity is the mother of invention.” This saying appears in the circa 375 BC Socratic dialogue “Republic” by the Greek philosopher Plato. This proverb first appeared in English in 1519 AD in slightly different form, “Need taught him wit.” Regardless the language or the form, the lesson is identical: needs or problems should always encourage creative efforts because necessity is always a factor in resilience, problem solving and innovation, regardless the circumstances.

Along similar lines, the late Louisiana State University Professor Leon C. Megginson wrote,

It is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself.

How we respond to a changing environment, e.g., new circumstances due to a Pandemic, tells the tale. A few will say take no action; just stay in place. Some will suggest doing things, but only those things done before circumstances changed. However, leaders will preserve traditions and respond to circumstances by adapting and initiating change to further organizational success and longevity despite the challenges involved.

The good news is many commanders and chapters have taken the leader’s approach, particularly in the areas of recruiting, meetings, communications, outreach, and recognition.

For example, despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, 18 of 81 chapters (22%) recruited 39 new Companions from 1 Apr–23 Jun 20:

- Atlanta (1-PM)
- Augusta (1-PM, 1-PM Installment, 2-HRM)
- BG Holland (1-HPM)
- Chicago (2-PM Installment)
- Clearwater (1-HPM)
- Dallas (1-RM)
- Fort Worth (1-PM)

- General Meade (1-PM)
- Greater Boston (1-PM, 1-RM)
- Hill Country (1-HPM, 2-RM)
- LTG Middleton (1-PM)
- LTG Walker (1-PM)
- LTG Wright (1-HPM)
- Northern Virginia (2-PM)
- Philadelphia (7-PM)
- Puerto Rico (1-PM, 2-RM)
- Puget Sound (3-PM)
- Virginia Piedmont (1-RM, 1-HRM)
- West Valley (2-RM)

Meetings are another area in which Companions chose to adapt and thrive. The Puget Sound Chapter, with the mentoring of PCINC Col David B. Gibson, continues to thrive, using Zoom videoconferencing as a creative way to meet with chapter Companions.

Communications is also an area in which effective adaptability is evident. Here, region commander Lt Col Marlon Ruiz is known for keeping his Region XIII Companions informed as to the latest news, activities, and initiatives.

In outreach, the Northern Virginia Chapter’s ROTC Program continues growing even during the Pandemic, as documented in *The Officer Review*® (May–June 2020), in COL Vicente C. Ogilvie’s worthy article, “ROTC Outreach: Starting from Scratch.”

Likewise, the Greater Boston Chapter, until recently led by Col Lawrence A. Willwerth (he is now the Region I Commander), creatively recognizes Companions and youth across a range of areas.



In sum, challenge gives rise to opportunity. To those who embraced challenge in the face of changed circumstances and took the opportunity to make good stuff happen, “Bravo Zulu!” ★



## LET'S GET TO IT

CPT (DR) ROBERT E. MALLIN, USA (FMR)  
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

OK, we have had time to adjust to the virus and to begin resuming regular habits, or establish new ones, depending on where we live. Exercises are part of any “normal,” even when done in our homes. I always try to become increasingly mobile and healthy. In normal times, the gym and pool are my choices. These are not normal times, so we must be innovative. Instead of my 1-½ hour cardio and strength training three times a week and 1-½ hour water walking and stretching 4-5 times a week, I must find other ways. As disappointing as it is, it is obvious to even me that pushing keys on a computer keyboard and opening and shutting the refrigerator door are not really exercise.

The simple solution is to use the resources your gym must have and get suggestions for home fitness workarounds. Gallon milk jugs are good weights during strengthening exercises. Selective emptying or filling a milk jug varies its weight and, thus, varies the program. Although I hate it, stair “ups and downs” are good. “Standups” from a sitting chair position are a good exercise for the quads and burns calories. In this exercise, your arms normally take on 50% of the effort. Try to use just your legs to stand up. As always, just walking around your place is helpful. If you have a smart watch, you can keep track of the distance traveled.

When the weather allows, biking, walking, jogging, and running outside are the things to do, if your overall condition permits. Here, visual visits or phone calls are safe ways to check with your health care providers. Doctors and their assistants, contrary to what you may think, have little physically to do. Most contacts are virtual and short. Except for emergencies and lack of physical direct contact, things seem to work well.

If you are outside alone, you typically do not need a face mask (unless required locally) but keep one handy if you see a group of people ahead. Remember, masks come in all different forms and sizes for distinct reasons. If exercising you want all the air you can get. The purpose of the mask is to protect others from your droplets. Anything covering your mouth and nose will help. If it is too tight or face fitting you may lose air intake or get dizzy. You do not need a front-line medical mask. Just have one that fits.

It always helps to keep track of your progress—just as it always helps if chapters keep track of their progress made in pursuing their Chapter Action Plan initiatives. I know the distance around my local dog park (0.1 mile). The distance to and from the mailbox plaza is 0.175 - 0.2 miles, depending on which route I take. To those of you who are genuine athletes, these numbers seem ridiculous when you do 100-mile weeks. For more senior people, any repeated movements are good. If gyms or pools are handy, trained therapists will professionally set your routines.

I hope that soon, outdoor activities will be just one of your choices and gyms and recreation centers with trained staff will, once again, be there for us. This situation reminds us that we never fully appreciate something until we must do without it. It is also a reminder that we should always make the best of things, whatever that may be. This contributes to mental health. As for exercises, do try these at home and use telephone or virtual support when needed.

Be well. ★



## GOD IS OUR STRENGTH

LTC CHERYL D. BRADY, USA (RET)  
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

While waiting to take the throne as King of Israel, David suffered years on the run for his life while being pursued by King Saul. In one season of David's life, 1 Samuel describes an incident during which his soldiers began turning against him and talked of stoning him.

What precipitated this? David and his men returned home and found their town burned to the ground. Their wives, children, and possessions were gone. The men were angry about their losses and they laid the blame for their misfortune at the feet of David. In this account of David's life, we find a prescription as to how we can keep our spirits up in the face of danger and great stress, even as we practice kindness and understanding.

The Novel Coronavirus, as did David's enemies in our story, has raided the homes, towns, villages, and cities of nations around the world. It has separated us from our loved ones. It has taken our possessions, our finances, dwellings, businesses, and schools, and we are angry. These losses contributed to emotional distress and physical ailments, with which many are struggling to cope.

Yet as we look at David's response during his tragic situation, we find the key to us keeping our spirits

up in times of stress and trouble. The first thing David did was turn to God to give him strength: "David strengthened himself in the Lord His God" [1 Samuel 30:6]. We should do no less.

Herein lies the importance of a loving and living relationship with God. In turning to God, David was spiritually moved to look for a solution instead of a scapegoat. David took his situation to God for help. God, alone, is wise. He, alone, is our help in times of need. Knowing that, David sought the Lord's counsel, asking Him for direction. David was open to God and as a result, he and his men recovered all.

There is a second vital characteristic of David's leadership during this tragedy: his kindness and understanding. His two hundred men were treated the same as the four hundred who went to battle. This reminds us that we are all in this pandemic as one people. Let us be kind to each other as the Lord is kind to us. Even more, let us not let our differences of color, heritage or creed divide us as we are all human beings created in the image of God. ★







Headquarters, The Military Order of the World Wars

## *CINC Chamberlin Hosts Top-8 Leadership Conference*

BY BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET) | CHIEF OF STAFF & COO, MOWW, INC.

CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), hosted a Top-8 Executive Leadership Conference involving IPCINC LTC John H. Hollywood, USA (Ret), SVCINC BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret), VCINC BG Victor S. Perez, USA (Ret), VCINC LTC (Dr) Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret), VCINC Maj Robert J. Williams, USAF (Ret), VCINC CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed. D., USAR (Ret), and Chief of Staff Brig Gen Arthur B. Morrill III, USAF (Ret).

During that conference, the Top-8 Executive Leaders reviewed the new MOWW Strategic Plan (now approved by the EXCOM), deliberated on establishing

a Strategic Growth Committee (now a proposed amendment to the MOWW Bylaws), and discussed leadership continuity and Chapter Action Plans, among other vital topics. During the conference, CINC LTC Chamberlin also presented SVCINC BGen Lopez with the Order's coveted Gold Patrick Henry Medal for his extraordinary service to the Order in a variety of vital leadership positions. CINC LTC Chamberlin also presented HQ MOWW staff member Mrs. Sunny Alley with a CINC Coin of Excellence in recognition of her many contributions to the Order. Mrs. Alley is also a recipient of the Order's Silver Patrick Medal.



Photo top: CINC LTC Chamberlin (R) presents the Order's Gold Patrick Henry Medal to SVCINC BGen Lopez (L). Photo inset: CINC LTC Chamberlin (R) presents his CINC Coin of Excellence to Mrs. Sunny Alley (L).





GEN Meade Chapter, MD

## *General Meade Chapter's Holiday Gala.*

BY COL KEN MCCREEDY, USA (RET)

The Chapter's Holiday Gala was a well-attended event featured patriotic music from Kassie Sandacz of Voices of Vets and a raucous White Elephant Gift Exchange. A highlight of the evening was when CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), presented a MOWW CINC Coin of Excellence to 100 year-old PCINC LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, USA (Ret).

(L-R): CINC LTC Chamberlin displays a memento of his visit presented to him by Chapter Commander COL Ken McCreedy, USA (Ret).





Apache Trails Chapter, AZ

## *The Apache Trails Chapter Welcomes CINC LTC Chamberlin*



BY LTC MARLON RUIZ | COMMANDER, REGION XIII

CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), visited the Apache Trails Chapter, AZ, and attended its 25 January 2020 Chapter Luncheon. In addition to Apache Trails Chapter Companions, many Companions from MOWW chapters throughout the Department of Arizona attended. CINC LTC Chamberlin shared his goals for the Military Order, briefed the MOWW Tiger Team Recruiting Initiative and shared his thoughts on leadership. Given the CINC's emphasis on recruiting, all were pleased to see HPM Diane T. McDowell sponsor two new Companions: Capt John P. Todd, USAF (Fmr), and CPT Wayne S. Broky, USA (Fmr). CINC LTC Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), then presented a Silver Patrick Henry Medal to LTC David L. Lynch, USAR (Ret), for his notable service to Apache Trails Chapter. Last, CINC LTC Chamberlin presented Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret), the Commander-in-Chief's Coin of Excellence for Colonel Ruiz's work as the Commander, Region XIII.



Top: CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), addresses the Apache Trails Chapter. Second Row, photo left (L-R): HPM Diane T. McDowell, Capt John P. Todd, USAF (Fmr), and CINC LTC Chamberlin. Second Row, photo right (L-R): HPM Diane T. McDowell, CPT Wayne S. Broky, USA (Fmr), and CINC LTC Chamberlin. Third row (L-R): LTC David L. Lynch, USAR (Ret), and CINC LTC Chamberlin. Photo Bottom (L-R): Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret), and CINC LTC Chamberlin.



Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

## *MOWW CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), and Mrs. Chamberlin Visit the Enchanted Island of Puerto Rico*

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, JR., USAF (RET)



The Puerto Rico Chapter celebrated its annual Christmas Gala and the 100th anniversary of MOWW during their general membership luncheon on 7 December 2019 at Antonio's Restaurant in El Condado, Puerto Rico. The chapter had the MOWW Commander-in-Chief, CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), as the guest of honor and speaker. The event coincided with the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Immediately after a fellowship cocktail hour during which the chapter Companions had a chance to meet the CINC and talk to him, the call to order initiated the formalities. One of the highlights of the general assembly was the Patriotic Moment, delivered by Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret), who delighted the audience with a recount of the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, Japan, during World War II. Following the Patriotic Moment, the activity recessed for lunch and then resumed with the cutting of the cake by CINC LTC Chamberlin in commemoration of the Order's 100th anniversary. The buffet line was open while a traditional, whole roasted pig was carved in front of the audience.





After lunch, the program continued with remarks by our Commander-in-Chief, LTC Chamberlin. The CINC discussed the importance of keeping a chapter active and alive, and how important the volunteer work our chapter Companions do is. CINC LTC Chamberlin also presented the Silver Patrick Henry Medal to VCINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret),



for his contributions to the chapter's patriotic efforts, youth programs and support of activities promoting the well-being of veterans across the island. The Puerto Rico Chapter presented a ceramic set of the Three Wisemen, a symbol of the Puerto Rican culture, as a token of appreciation.

Before the event's conclusion, Chapter Commander Col Adalberto Rivera, Jr., USAF (Ret), spoke about several upcoming projects discussed with the Veteran's Advocate for Puerto Rico to increase the chapter's participation in veteran support activities and youth leadership development.



(Page opposite, top): CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), receives a ceramic set of the Three Wise Men as an example of Puerto Rican culture, and recognition as the Christmas Gala's honored guest and speaker. (L-R): Chapter Commander Col Adalberto Rivera, Jr., USAF (Ret); CINC LTC Chamberlin, Mrs. Adele Chamberlin and Mrs. Wanda Rivera. (Page opposite, bottom): Puerto Rico Chapter Companions gather to celebrate MOWW's 100th Anniversary.

(This page, top): Mrs. Wanda Rivera; Mrs. Adele Chamberlin; CINC LTC Chamberlin and Chapter Commander Col Rivera pose in front of the cake to commemorate the Order's 100th Anniversary. (This page, bottom left): Col Adalberto Rivera (right) observes while CINC LTC Chamberlin (second right to left) does the initial carving of the roasted pig to start the chapter's Christmas lunch. (L-R): CW4 Cristino Lozada-Cruz, USA, (Ret); BG Victor S. Perez, PRARNG (Ret), and Mrs. Adele Chamberlin. (This page, bottom right): CINC LTC Chamberlin (right) pins the Silver Patrick Henry Medal on the lapel of VCINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret) (left).





Pinson Memorial Chapter, TX

## *CINC Visits Pinson Memorial Chapter*

BY LTC ARTHUR B. FOWLER, USA (RET)

CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), was the honored guest at the chapter's 14 January meeting in Irving, TX. The speaker was HPM Mr. Robert Epstein who gave an informative presentation on the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. A Dallas Chapter Companion, Mr. Epstein is a noted speaker on military history topics.

(Photo Left, L-R): CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, USA (Ret), Pinson Chapter Commander COL Vincent L. Freeman, Jr., USA (Ret), and HPM Mr. Robert Epstein.



Sun City Center Chapter, FL

## *CINC LTC Chamberlin Attends Sun City Center Gala*

BY CAPT FRANK KEPLEY, USN (RET)

The Sun City Center Chapter held their Annual Dining Out event on 20 February 2020 at the Freedom Plaza Club in Sun City Center, FL. CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret), was the guest of honor.

The CINC joined past and present commanders in the chapter's traditional cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the chapter's 27-year history. Among the 60 Companions present were MOWW National Judge Advocate General, MAJ Andrew J. Rodnite, USA (Fmr), and Mrs. Ellen Rodnite who graciously snapped these photos of the event.

(Photo Top Left): MOWW National Judge Advocate General, MAJ Andrew J. Rodnite, USA (Fmr). (Photo Center, L-R): Companions Cutting the Cake with the missing-man table seen to the left. (Photo Right, L-R): CINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, USA (Ret) introduced by LTC Charles R. Conover, Jr.





## Little Known Facts about VA Medical Centers



VA medical centers not only provide top-notch care to 9 million veterans, but many have long and interesting backstories, some with roots dating back to the Civil War, when the first hospitals and homes for disabled former soldiers began to open. You might be surprised by some of these 20 little-known facts about VA medical centers.

The Togus VA Medical Center in Maine is the oldest facility for veterans in the nation.

The Bob Stump VA Medical Center in Prescott, AZ, is located at the site of Fort Whipple, a base for the US cavalry after the Civil War. It later became headquarters for the Rough Riders during the Spanish American War.

The Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System began on an abandoned recreation spot known as Pastime Park, which at various times had been a skating rink, bowling alley, dance hall and a notorious roadside tavern.

Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center in Long Beach, CA, is named for the only Holocaust survivor to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

The incredible views of the Smoky Mountains at the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center in Mountain Home, TN, (pictured at the top) were intended to benefit the recovery of the tuberculosis patients who were first treated there.

Even before its official dedication, the VA San Diego Healthcare System jumped into action to provide emergency care following a 1972 California earthquake.

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic — which offers disabled veterans the chance to ski, rock climb, scuba dive and more — is held each year at the VAMC in Grand Junction, CO.

When the original Wilmington VA Medical Center opened on 26 August 1946, 77% of the staff were veterans.

The first VA hospital in Miami, FL, was actually a former hotel.

At the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital and Clinics,

veterans participated in weekly taste tests to set the menu at the American Heroes Café.

The Boise VA Medical Center occupies most of the former Fort Boise. Its sandstone buildings are some of the oldest in the city.

The site of the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL, was once a former board track racecourse. Popular in the early 1900s, board track racing was a motorsport race on an oval racecourse with a surface of wooden planks.

The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in Chicago, IL, is the first partnership between VA and the Department of Defense, integrating veteran and naval health care into one facility. It's also named for Apollo 13 astronaut Jim Lovell, played by Tom Hanks in the popular movie.

Arrowheads and relics from the Susquehannock tribe can still be found on Perry Point Peninsula, home of the Perry Point VA Medical Center in Maryland.

The Battle Creek VA Medical Center was initially called Veterans Hospital Number 100 because it was the 100th VA hospital built in the United States.

Henry Ford attended the groundbreaking of the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit.

At the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, three large atria in the facility allow for a window with natural light in each patient's room.

From the 1920s to 1965, the Cloud VA Medical Center's farm served as both occupational therapy and a source of local crops and milk for the hospital.

The VA Medical Center in St. Louis, MO, occupies the Jefferson Barracks, the oldest operating US military installation west of the Mississippi River.

The Montana VA Health Care System serves one of the highest per-capita veteran populations in the US — almost 10% of the state's population has served!

## National POW/MIA Recognition Day



National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.





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