

# INFANTRY HERITAGE GUIDE

ISSUE 01

FOR TWO CENTURIES I HAVE KEPT OUR NATION FREE,  
INCREASING FREEDOM WITH MY BLOOD.  
TO TYRANTS, I AM THE DAY OF RECKONING.  
TO THE OPPRESSED, THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.  
WHEN THE FIGHTING IS THICK, THERE AM I!  
**I AM THE INFANTRY! FOLLOW ME!**

Transcribed from the American Legion Hall built for and  
dedicated to the memory of all Americans. It was built in  
the 1930s and is the last remnant of the original building  
with the same address. The building was built and  
dedicated in memory of the 10th Infantry Regiment  
in their fight against British troops in 1775.  
1775-1930

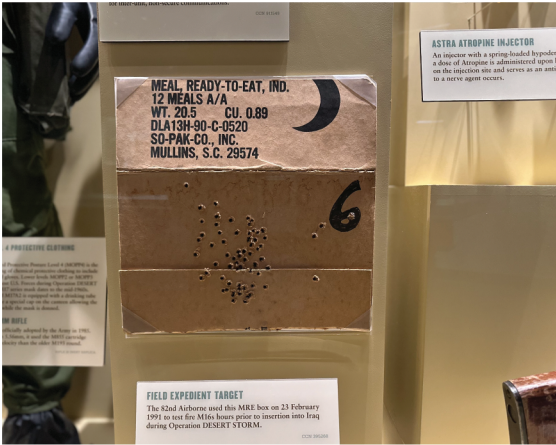
250 YEARS AGO, tensions were high between Britain and the American colonies, and our young nation was growing the divide with a spirit of individualism. Winds of rebellion were gathering, and the colonies would not be ruled by their distant monarchy; they were ready to fight and defend their freedom. The “shot heard ‘round the world” exploded chaos into revolution as civil disturbance transformed into war. The Continental Congress voted to establish the Continental Army on June 14, 1775, and the 10 companies of riflemen raised from the ashes of rebellion became the fierce forbearers of the Infantry as we know it today.

In this spirit, the National Infantry Museum encourages you to journey through the 250 years of Infantry history in a way you’ve never done before. Follow along with the monthly guides to discover Infantry battle anniversaries, tales of heroism and honor, and even the unique untold stories behind the historical objects on exhibit.

—★—  
NATIONAL  
INFANTRY  
MUSEUM



# INSIDE THE COLLECTION



**CURATOR NOTE:**  
Confirming Zero. The ground phase of Operation DESERT STORM began in the early morning hours of 24 February 1991 and Infantry Soldiers always test fire their weapons prior to battle. One of about 50 such MRE boxes filled with sand and used as improvised zeroing target. James Patrick Mackley, an Army Times Reporter, collected this target the morning of the ground war at a location where units of the 82nd Airborne Division had been the night before, approximately 1KM from the Iraqi border.

**Location: A Global Presence**

**Object: Improved Target, Desert Storm**



**CURATOR NOTE:**  
“The Rock” Parachute. On 16 February 1945, Paratroopers from the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment jump onto the small island of Corregidor to retake the former American coastal defense base there that protected Manila Bay. Jumping at only 600-feet, half the normal training jump altitude, nearly 25% percent of the 2,022 Paratroopers were wounded just from the jump alone. Safely on the ground, Charles “Chuck” Breit, a 19-year-old orphan, found his parachute and rolled it up into an ammunition box. Later, he would pass off his souvenir to a wounded comrade that was being evacuated from the island for safekeeping.



**Location: A World Power**

**Object: Silk Parachute, World War II**



**CURATOR NOTE:**  
Christmas on the Mexican Border. Christmas Dinner Menu and play program for the Soldiers of L Company 1st Regiment of Infantry, Georgia National Guard, then stationed on the Mexican border at Camp Cotton, El Paso. Formed in 1843, this unit was known as the “Irish Jasper Greens” for the Savannah Irish immigrant and Revolutionary War hero, SGT Jasper Green. This Georgia infantry regiment saw service in Mexican American War and again during the Civil War. Today, the lineage of the “Irish Jasper Greens” lives on in the 118th Field Artillery Regiment of the Georgia Army National Guard.

**Location: The International Stage, Display Case**

**Object: Menu, Mexican Border 1916**

# INSIDE THE COLLECTION



**Location: Armor & Cavalry Gallery, Diorama**  
**Object: FT17 Tank, World War I**

## CURATOR NOTE:

Not what you'd expect! While the French-built Renault FT-17 light tanks is well known for its service in World War I with the French Army and the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). This tank here was recovered from a metal junkyard in Kabul Afghanistan in 2003 by US Army Soldiers. With permission from the Afghan government, two of the four tanks discovered were ferried back to the United States aboard an USAF C-17 Globemaster where they have been totally restored by the US Army Armor & Cavalry Collection staff.

## CURATOR NOTE:

"The rocket's red glare." Known as the 2.25" Hale Rocket this was the world's first spin-stabilized rocket. Also known as rotary or stickless rocket, this 6-pound rocket was able to be stabilized in flight with rotational thrusts, like that of a rifle bullet, through three small, canted exhaust vents in the base of the rocket. The rockets were made with three types of warheads: solid head, exploding shell, and case shot. The maximum range for the Hale rocket was 1,760 yards at 47 degrees. Their superior accuracy led to their quick adoption by the British and American armies, with the first combat use coming at the siege of Vera Cruz in 1847 by the 150-man American Rocket Brigade.



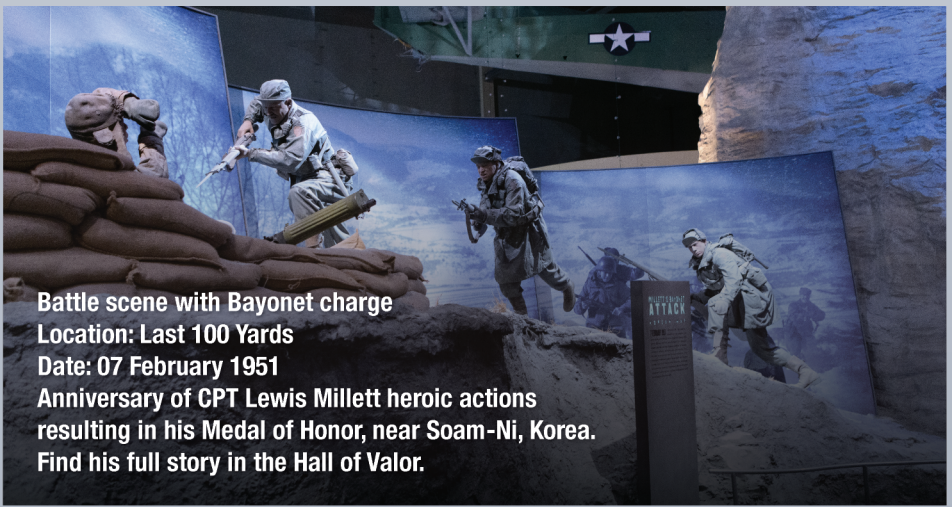
**Location: Defining the Nation, Display Case**  
**Object: Rocket Launcher, Mexican American War**



**Location: The Cold War**  
**Object: Pocket Calendar, Vietnam War**

## CURATOR NOTE:

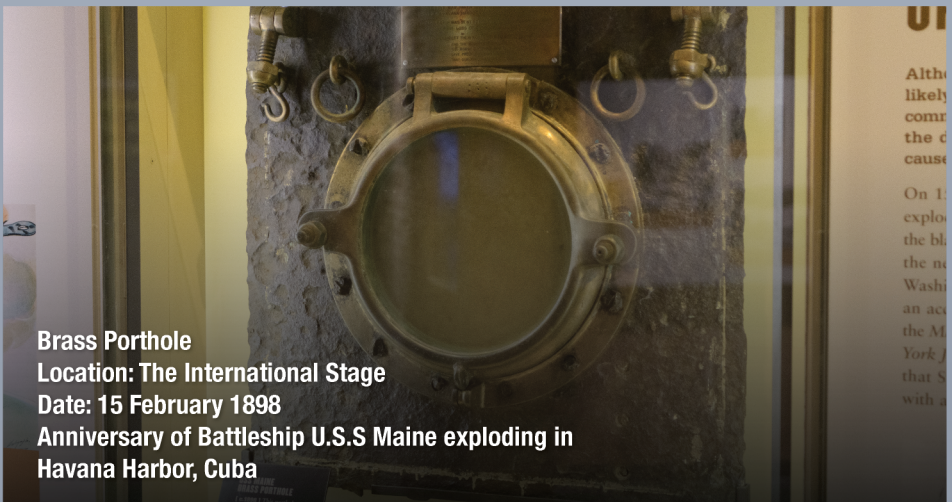
Counting down the days! February 1965 marks the first arrival of American combat units to Vietnam; Infantry Soldiers would rotate out of these units on their one-year combat tour of duty. As the excitement of coming home grew, Soldiers found colorful and artistic ways to count down their last days remaining in the 'Nam.' Known as a "Short Timer's" calendar, this shade in the helmet camouflage pattern cartoon was done by Sergeant Reuel Baughman, an Infantry Squad Leader with the 199th Infantry Brigade during his 1969 to 1970 tour.



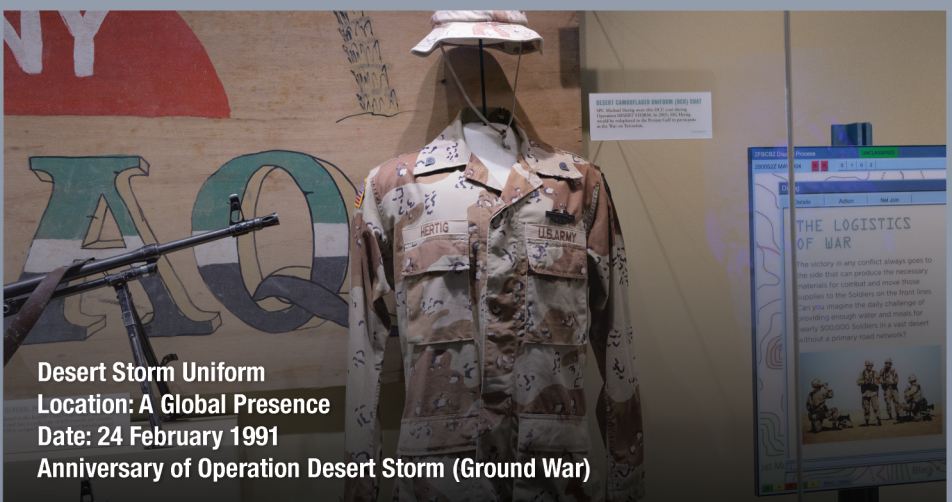
**Battle scene with Bayonet charge**  
Location: Last 100 Yards  
Date: 07 February 1951  
Anniversary of CPT Lewis Millett heroic actions resulting in his Medal of Honor, near Soam-Ni, Korea.  
Find his full story in the Hall of Valor.



**Vignette with paratrooper**  
Location: Last 100 Yards  
Date: 16 February 1945  
Anniversary of Battle of Corregidor/ Combat Jump by 503d PRCT (WWII)



**Brass Porthole**  
Location: The International Stage  
Date: 15 February 1898  
Anniversary of Battleship U.S.S Maine exploding in Havana Harbor, Cuba



**Desert Storm Uniform**  
Location: A Global Presence  
Date: 24 February 1991  
Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm (Ground War)