

MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

INSCOM: acronym referring to the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, a direct reporting unit that conducts intelligence, security, and information operations for U.S. Army commanders and national decision makers

Interpol: acronym referring to the International Criminal Police Organization

ITAC: abbreviation referring to the Intelligence and Threat Analysis Center used by INSCOM



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Words to Ponder:

"In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength."

~ Gen. Robert E. Lee



Pray for our Deployed Members:

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: US Army, serving the Lord in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
Andrew Folz: He is home now! Praise the Lord!

Together in Scripture Reading:

This month:
the book of Philemon



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The Final Letter

Colonel Steve Martin

July the 14th, 1861

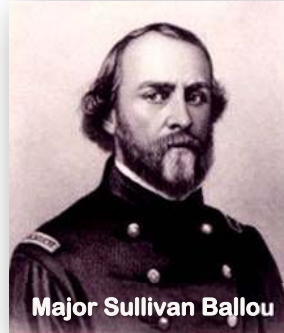
Washington D.C.

My very dear Sarah:

The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days—perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write you again, I feel impelled to write lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more.

Our movement may be one of a few days' duration and full of pleasure—and it may be one of severe conflict and death to me. Not my will, but thine O God, be done. If it is necessary that I should fall on the battlefield for my country, I am ready. I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in, the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how strongly American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the Government, and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution. And I am willing—perfectly willing—to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt.

But, my dear wife, when I know that with my own joys I lay down nearly all of yours, and replace them in this life with cares and sorrows—when, after having eaten for long years the bitter fruit of orphanage myself, I must offer it as their only sustenance to my dear little children—is it weak or dishonorable, while the banner of my purpose floats calmly and proudly in the breeze, that my unbounded love for you, my darling wife and children, should struggle in fierce, though useless, contest with my love of country.



Major Sullivan Ballou

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me to you with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battlefield.

The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long.

And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when God willing, we might still have lived and loved together and seen our sons grow up to honorable manhood around us. I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me—perhaps it is the wasted prayer of my little Edgar—that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed. If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name.

Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have often been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness, and struggle with all the misfortune of this world, to shield you and my children from harm? But I cannot. I must watch you from the spirit land and hover near you, while you buffet the storms with your precious little freight, and wait with sad patience till we meet to part no more. Sarah, do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for me, for we shall meet again.

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'Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me to you with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break...'



Did You Know: 21 Little-Known Facts About the US Army (PART 1)

Editor's Note: In this multi-part feature, we are sharing these little-known facts in belated honor of the US Army's 240th birthday (on June 14).

#1. Nearly 70 percent of all Medals of Honor have been awarded to soldiers. And 1,198 of the Army's 2,403 Medals of Honor were awarded for actions in the Civil War.

#2. More than half of the men elected President of the United States - 24 to be exact - have worn the Army's uniform.

#3. George Washington chose the colors of the present Army dress uniform. In 1778, the Continental Congress charged General Washington with deciding on a service uniform for the Continental Army. In October 1779, he directed soldiers to wear "blue coats with differing facings for the various state troops, artillery, artillery artificers and light dragoons." Over the next two hundred years, the Army tried various colors—whites, tans, and greens—but in 2010, again began issuing uniforms according to Washington's color design.

#4. Francis Marion - known as "The Swamp Fox" (pictured below) - headed a group of Revolutionary War-era Army Rangers known as Marion's Partisans. He is also credited with creating modern guerrilla warfare, which was key to the American victory against the British.



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Fun Facts: Declaration of Independence

Editor's Note: In celebration of Independence Day, the following was adapted from an article posted on military.com.

America's revolutionary Charter of Freedom, the Declaration of Independence is a document upon which our nation's founding principles were established. The Declaration of Independence set the course for our nation on a journey of freedom, which also led this historic document on its own journey. For example, did you know:

Who Authored the Declaration of Independence?

Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, which was then edited by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. Jefferson took their edits and incorporated them into what would become the version finally adopted.

Independence Day Should Have Been July 2

July 2, 1776 is the day that the Continental Congress actually voted for independence. John Adams, in his writings, even noted that July 2 would be remembered in the annals of American history and would be marked with fireworks and celebrations. The written Declaration of Independence was dated July 4 but wasn't actually signed

'...The Declaration of Independence is a document upon which our nation's founding principles were established.'

until August 2. Fifty-six delegates eventually signed the document, although all were not present on that day in August.

Who Signed and In What Order?

John Hancock signed first, with a large hand right in the middle because he was the President of the Congress. The others signed by state delegation, beginning in the upper right in one column, and then proceeding in five other columns, arranged

from the northernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).

Who Signed Last?

It is believed Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to sign. When Congress authorized the printing of an official copy with the names attached in January 1777, McKean's name was not included. He signed after that date, or the printer made a mistake by omitting him.

On The Road Again

The Declaration of Independence spent many years on the road. After the signing ceremony on August 2, it was most likely filed in Philadelphia. On December 12, threatened by the British, Congress adjourned and reconvened 8 days later in Baltimore, MD, where the document remained until its return to Philadelphia in March of 1777. In the years to follow, it traveled widely with the Continental Congress throughout the Northeast, then moving to Washington, DC in 1800.

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The Final Letter

As for my little boys, they will grow as I have done, and never know a father's love and care. Little Willie is too young to remember me long, and my blue-eyed Edgar will keep my frolics with him among the dimmest memories of his childhood. Sarah, I have unlimited confidence in your maternal care and your development of their characters. Tell my two mothers his and hers I call God's blessing upon them. O Sarah, I wait for you there! Come to me, and lead thither my children.

Sullivan

Major Sullivan Ballou's letter to his dear wife Sarah (see image at right) was one of the most poignant and moving letters in all of American history. It clearly showed the great emotional struggle of his generation reflecting the fear, uncertainty and sadness that men faced when considering their own potential demise on the field of battle. Casualty rates on both sides were high

during the Civil War and for a commander of troops, even more so since leading from the front was the expectation of leadership. Sitting in the darkness, most likely around a campfire after duties had ended for the day, the thoughts of many would turn to home. Writing a letter to loved ones was the only means of communication available to the soldier in the field. On this evening, Major Ballou considered his responsibilities as a citizen, soldier, husband and father and he reflected upon the sacrifice that he and his family may make.

The letter also reflected Major Ballou's firm trust in the Divine Providence of God - even praying for God's will to be done. He also reflected his strong belief in our country and in his responsibility in filling the shoes of those who had fought for freedom less than 100 years prior. He fully realized that the sacrifices may be high, but that the cause was worth fighting and dying

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for. His steadfast resolve in the face of deadly threats to his life and to the future well-being of his family had already been weighed. He had counted the cost and was willing to forfeit his life for his country if called upon.



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USO Helps Grieving Son

Losing a parent can be devastating. But losing a parent while on military duty adds a new set of obstacles that can overwhelm the most prepared soldier. Army Spc. Austin Hunsinger (pictured at right) knows this all too well.



In December 2012, after learning his father suddenly passed way, Hunsinger - who was stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina - had to juggle an emergency leave request, funeral arrangements and booking last-minute flights all in a matter of hours.

When he finally arrived at the airport to go back to Rochester, New York, he was exhausted. He'd been up all night speaking with his family. So he sat down in the airport, fell asleep and missed his flight.

When Hunsinger woke up and realized what had happened, he knew he needed help fast. He headed straight to the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport USO. A little shaken up and worried he wouldn't be able to get another flight in time for the funeral, Hunsinger explained what happened to the USO staff.

"The USO is always there and they're always the first people I go to when I'm traveling," Hunsinger said.

Within a matter of minutes, a USO volunteer helped Hunsinger re-book his flight to Rochester, getting him home just in time for his father's services the next day.

"That was a really hectic time for me and [the USO] just relieved the stress at the right point," Hunsinger said.

"[The USO had] perfect timing, for them to be there and for them to help me get a flight and to provide me with a place to rest my head [was great]."

For more information, visit www.uso.org

Allen Jones, USO

Did You Know: 21 Little-Known Facts (PART 1)

(Continued from page 2)

#5. The Army was the last branch to adopt an official song, declaring "The Army Goes Rolling Along" as its official tune in 1956.

#6. The United States Army as we know it today was founded June 14, 1775, when the First Continental Congress approved the enlistment of soldiers to serve the united American colonies.

#7. Pvt. James Buchanan was the only president who served in the Army who didn't become an officer.

#8. June 14 is also Flag Day. Officially adopted in 1916, the first iteration of the American flag was actually authorized by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.

#9. The Army is marginally responsible for inventing the microwave. A World War II engineer at Raytheon realized radiation from radar - which the Army was using to scan for enemy missiles - could be used to heat products, too.

#10. Galusha Pennypacker (pictured below) is widely recognized as the youngest general in Army history, earning a promotion to brevet brigadier general at the age of 20 during the Civil War.

#11. The USO helps out modern soldiers in a host of ways beyond snacks and a place to snooze.



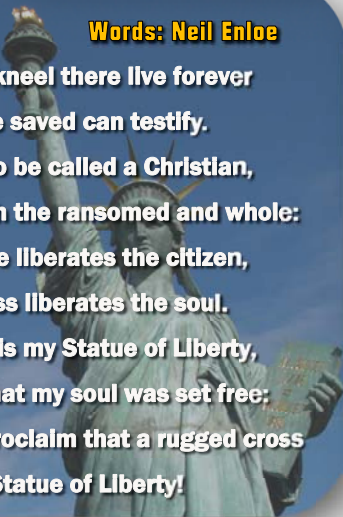
CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

The Statue of Liberty

Words: Neil Enloe

In New York Harbor stands a lady,
With a torch raised to the sky,
And all who see her know she stands for
Liberty for you and me.
I'm so proud to be called an American,
To be named with the brave and the free;
I will honor our flag and our trust in God,
And the Statue of Liberty.
On lonely Golgotha stood a cross,
With my Lord raised to the sky;

And all who kneel there live forever
As all the saved can testify.
I'm so glad to be called a Christian,
To be named with the ransomed and whole:
As the statue liberates the citizen,
So the cross liberates the soul.
Oh the cross is my Statue of Liberty,
It was there that my soul was set free:
Unashamed I'll proclaim that a rugged cross
Is my Statue of Liberty!



Declaration of Independence

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In 1814, again threatened by war, it was moved to an unused gristmill in Virginia for protection. On August 24, as the British burned the White House, it was moved to Leesburg, VA until September, when it returned to the nation's capital. With the exception of a trip to Philadelphia for the Centennial and to Fort Knox during World War II, it has remained there ever since.

If By Land or By Sea

The document has also experienced many modes of travel. Initially, like other parchment documents of the time, the Declaration was probably stored in a rolled format. Each time the document was used, it would have been unrolled and re-rolled. It

likely traveled by light wagon and by horseback with the Continental Congress in its early years. When it was first brought to Washington, it traveled by boat, down the Delaware River and Bay, out into the ocean, into the Chesapeake Bay, and up the Potomac to the new capital city.

During World War II, it was moved by Pullman train to Louisville, KY and transferred under armed guard to Fort Knox for safety and protection.

Line of Descent

Actress Reese Witherspoon is a direct descendant of John Witherspoon, one of the 56 signers of the Decla-

ration of Independence. John Witherspoon is pictured in a Barry Faulkner Mural, entitled "The Declaration of Independence," which illustrates 28 delegates to the Continental Congress of 1776. This newly restored mural is hanging in the Rotunda of the National Archives.



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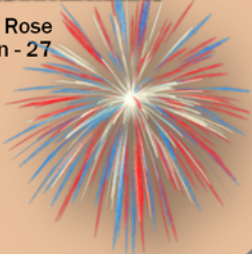
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JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- Heather Folz - 7
- Brian Palmer - 11
- Nathaniel Palmer - 23

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

- Joe & Rose Wilson - 27



THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

1 Jul 1946 - The United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The energy released by any one of the ten or so major earthquakes every year is about a thousand times as much as the Bikini atomic bomb.



4 Jul 1832 - The song "America" was sung publicly for the first time at a Fourth of July celebration by a group of children at Park Street Church in Boston. The words were written on a scrap of paper in half an hour by Dr. Samuel Francis Smith, a Baptist minister, and were set to the music of "God Save the King."

15 Jul 1950 - F-80s accounted for 85 percent of the enemy's losses to air attack. Far East Air Forces Commander, Lieutenant General George E. Stratemeyer, stated that he wouldn't trade the F-80 for all the F-47s and F-51s he could get. "It does a wonderful job in ground support and can take care of the top-side job if enemy jets appear."

The Final Letter

Major Sullivan Ballou (*pictured with his family below*) was severely injured, a week later, at the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, when a cannon ball hit him and his horse as he was leading his troops into battle. Major Ballou died eight days later on July 29 from his wounds, never having the opportunity to communicate with Sarah prior to his death. Actually, his letter was never mailed and was found a few months later when the trunk containing his personal effects was returned to Sarah. How sad the tragic loss of a man of his character who loved God, loved his family, and loved his country. This letter has been a point of inspiration to not only his descendants, but to many others who have picked up the banner of our country in the years since.



There are twenty-one letters in the New Testament sent to early believers that formed much of the Christian doctrine we know today. About half of these letters were penned by the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys. These letters were used not only to communicate personal and ministry information; but to also inform, instruct, guide and encourage new believers. It is hard to know whether any of the writers had any idea of the scope and importance of their letters, but they have been a source of encouragement to generations, and many people will be in Heaven as a result of the testimony of these writers. Finally, let's consider Paul's final letter to Timothy. He realizes that this will be his last letter to his young friend and he provides encouragement and instruction for the difficult days

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ahead. Paul's final testimony has provided encouragement to believers through the centuries: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." How great it is seeing that Paul had counted the cost. He knew the sacrifice was high, but he had the great assurance that it was going to be worth it all when he stood before his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

We too can take comfort in these words knowing that our sacrifices, even to the point of death, are not worthless. Continue to fight the good fight, finish the course before you, and keep the faith! It will be worth it all when you see Jesus!



'For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.'
Romans 8:18

Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please continue to pray for Ashley Huskey as she is being treated for vasculitis.

Please keep Phil Wagher in your prayers for continued health and strength.

Please continue to keep Brian and Ivey Palmer in your prayers as they begin their transition to Fort Hood, Texas. This will be a big change for their family. Please continue to keep our President, Donald



Trump and his administration in your prayers! Ask the Lord to give them wisdom to make the right decisions in regard to several areas of concern around our world.

~ Colonel Martin

Next Month:

- Little-Known Facts: US Army (part 2)
- Meet the Military: John Tinsley, USAF
- Back to School Deals for Military Families



The Brian Palmer Family

