

USA Military History  
or  
Why War Games Are Not Really Good For Generals

I'm afraid, once again, you boys are paddling up river without any oars. All this disagreement on War Games is not worthy of wasting your tee- off, or beer drinkin time. In order to discuss this subject properly, you need to be aware of its history, and the people that made this into a big, long, expensive field exercise. So bear with me boys, as we take a ride through our American Military History.

Revolutionary War 1775-1783

Now any good ole American boy knows that George Washington had some military experience fightin Injun's and Frogs, with the Brits. When he was turned down for a regular commission in the British Army, he had a hissy fit, and later joined the rebellious rebels. Although considered one of our best General's, the boy had wooden teeth. Now think about that, had he been a Marine, he probably would have been called old woodenhead! We later got hep from the Frogs, who sent over a 25 year old newly made General, named Marie Joseph Paul Lafayette. Now think about that, and I won't even talk about his sissy name! I mean the boy just got out of the Basic School at 25, and they send him to us as a General? Well thanks a million, frogs! Then the Krauts send us their General, Baron, Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Agustin Von Steuben. Now this boy had at least passed the Amphibious Warfare School training; However he was a Prussian, and had trouble understanding why American troops did not immediately respond to orders. Well first of all they didn't speak German, and besides it took two sheets of good toilet paper just to get all his name on a published order. Eventually, and after many defeats, Washington cornered British General Charles Cornwallis or Cornflakes at Yorktown, and the war ended for a spell. After all, we had to go back to takin land from the Injuns and Mexican's.

War of 1812

Well the Brits had other wars to fight, but promised to return in 1812, which they did. By that time we made "Old Hickory" Andrew (Jesse) Jackson a General, and he beat the pants off the Brits in the battle of New Orleans, with the hep of a pirate named Jean Lafite or Laffitte. Now Laffite wasn't particularly gifted with smarts and set up cotton bales to stop the Brit bullets and cannon balls. Well, we ended up with more Q tips made in that one battle, than have ever been made in one day, ever since. Worse yet, the war was over and had actually ended a while back, but then that goes to prove you should never to rely on Military Communicators. Now the Marines were unaware that the Barbary Coast Pirates had a lotsa friends, so when Presley O'Bannon went to write a song about Tripoli, and he was really fortunate to have a bunch of camel caravan drivers who thought Marines had just had their payday, and followed them straight into Tripoli. In fact, I really think Presley, bought the Mamaluke Sword rather than got it as a present, but that's just my thoughts on the matter.

### The Alamo 1836

Now here was a real he-mans battle, where a few hundred illegal immigrants went to Mexico (Texas being just a small part of northern Mexico) to take land from the Indians and the Mexican's, and got caught red handed in the San Antonio Alamo. Although, Davy Crocket, Jim Bowie, and Col William Barret Travis knew they could have skeedaddled to Boston or San Diego, they stayed telling their men that the Mexican's were scaredy cats, and they foolishly lost the battle, which might have been won with some Human Relations or Hearts and Mind training. Later the Texicans beat General Santa Anna (sounds like one of Columbus's boats) at the battle of San Jacinto in Texas( not California), and gained independence for the new Republic of Texas. Of course, General Santa Anna was under threat of death to cede Texas to the Texicans, and he complied rather than hang around so to speak.

### Mexican War of 1846

Now this War is a bit of a strange war, in that in that it was a combination of the Texican's wanting to become a real US. state, and a new movement called "Manifest Destiny" whereby the Protestant American's believed it their duty to civilize the rest of the nation's Indian's, Mexican's, Irish, and other Catholic's, in order to promote kindness and Protestant Christian ways. To make matters worse the song from sea to shinning sea was written but could not be sung properly, if the Mexican's owned the west coast. Now to be fair, the American's tried to buy these lands for \$5 million, then \$25 million, but the Mexican's could see into the future, and they said no tortilla. So border conflicts grew into battles and finally into a big war, with the American's victorious in the end. Eventually the American's gave the Mexican's \$15 million for northern Mexico, which eventually became the states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. Now that sounds like a fair and square Yankee deal to me. Besides, we had to make an amphibious landing at Vera Cruz to eventually conquer Mexico City, and Chapultepec (so we Marine's could have the Halls of Montezuma in our song), and that cost a lot of money. This is also the war where many future American Civil War Generals practiced their military skills, in order to kill each other later on.

### US. Civil War of 1861-1865

Now here is a war you can sink your teeth into. We have so many General's in this war that are still remembered, that is by those American's not using drugs or Prozac. However, we must remember that the most beloved Confederate General (the Southern Gentleman and Officer) was one Robert E. Lee. His superior academic record at West Point caused him to graduate number 2 out of a class of 49 cadets, but he still lost the War. Not all by himself mind you, but he was the last appointed CG of all Confederate Forces, and must thereby pay the price of defeat. While Lee was number two in his class at West Point, his winning opponent General Ulysses S. Grant was number 21 out of a class of 39 at West Point, a little later on. Now this goes to show you those smart aleck academic nerd types ain't always the best Commander's. Besides, Grant drank heavily, smoked cigars, cursed a lot, failed in all his civilian ventures, but won the war, and later

the Presidency! Perhaps, the most colorful, loved, despised, bravest, and feared Confederate General was an illiterate former slave trader, named Nathan Bedford Forrest. Now this Cavalry boy reeked havoc on Union forces until the very end of the war. He also started and became the Grand Lizard of the infamous KKK, which means something in chicken like Kluck, Kluck, Kluck or some such nonsense. I mean after losing the war the boy wasn't right in the head anymore, if you get my meaning. Now think about it, the less educated and rogue General wins, while the mint julip fancy pants one loses. Also consider Lee went to Gettysburg to get shoes! My God, if you ain't got shoes, don't take the boys for long hikes, people will think you're tetchd. Then, of course, Lee failed to take the high ground when he could easily have taken it, but I guess he was scared of the cemeteries on top. Then he decides to have his men charge through a perfectly good wheat field, in order to overtake a stone wall full of enemy troops. Now think about it, if his boys were so poor they needed shoes, then they sure as heck could have eaten the wheat in the field for dinner. Now you tell me the boy don't need hep. There are too many battles and General's to discuss, and I wanted to make this short. Another strange thing about the Civil war was that over 50 officer's from both sides fought with only one arm or leg, and one with one of each missing, and he had to be tied to his steed, or roll over like humpty dumpty. Now you know them boys ate Wheaties or Total every morning! Old General Winfield Scott was so fat they couldn't put him on a horse, but I think they could have made a wooden horse for him with wheels underneath and on the sides, so he could go to war and see the battle for himself, although going back uphill might have presented a military problem .He was 74 years old at the beginning of the war, somewhat senile, but a survivor of the war of 1812 and the Mexican war of 1846-48, and Chief of the US army since "1841". Boy the Army sure knows how to pick em. Others on both sides, jumped out of their sick beds to start, continue, or end battles .I can only conclude that these boys really must have really had ugly or bitchy wives. Anyhow, the war ended in 1865, and everybody was happy for a spell.

### Indian Wars ?

It's hard to put a date on the Indian wars since everybody from the other side of the pond (as the Brits say) was killin Injuns, right from the beginning of us illegal immigrants coming to the America's. I mean it started in the Colonies when the Injun's ate all the turkey at Thanksgiving, and that never really ended, as they also had all the good land, and besides they forgot to fence it in. But after the Civil War many sojures stayed in because there was no home to go to, or wanted to learn to finally shoot straight, or get a paycheck. One of these was a former Civil War General, reduced to Lt. Col after the war, by the name of Georgie A. Custer. Now this boy supposedly had 30 horses shot out from under him, which tells me he had kin folk on the other side. Anyhow, he goes after the Indians and forgets to take 3 Gattlin guns he left on some barges. Then he splits up his force and attacks about two and a half million Indians or so (Army records aren't clear on this one), and I'm sure the boy is still wondering today, why and how did he gets wiped out. Needless to say, he was another West Point graduate. Anyhow, by 1898 we had beat the redskins fair and square, according to the Army. Heck at wounded Knee the Army gave out 29 Medals of Honor, for catchin them redskins and almost letting them fire back, to be fair.

## Spanish- American War of 1898

Now this again is a strange story in that we placed a US Navy ship called the Maine, right in the Cuban harbor of Havana. Now the boys from Chicago wanted a war with the Spaniards, who were accused of not being nice to the Cuban's, Puerto Rican's, and the Filipino's. Apparently the Chicago crowd thought Havana would be a good gambling place, and we could use the old "Manifest Destiny" approach to expand our borders. But the Spaniards got wind of the plan too late, and got blamed for the sinking of the Maine, which obviously belonged in Augusta, Maine anyway. Anyhow, we went to war with the Spaniards and won the war, and got only the Philippines and Puerto Rico, Guam and Samoa, as the Cubans still wanted to fight us. So we decided no gambling for them, for now. Luckily, we gave back the Philippines back to the Filipino's, else we would have a lot more on the welfare rolls. The Puerto Rican's still can't decide if they want to remain as an American Territory, a separate country, a part of Spain, or a part of Cuba. Lets face it, the boys were never right in that hot climate anyway.

## World War 1

Now here is where our military first start using exercises by replaying old Civil War battles, which, of course, had absolutely nothing to do with the upcoming war. Also this is the starting point on many of our future Banana Wars, which were usually fought using small unit tactics in wonderful places like Haiti, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Panama, etc. I won't address these, as they have less to do with the US. Government and more to do with the United Fruit Company, the Oil Companies, etc. This whole mess of WW1 begins with the shooting of an Archduke Francis Ferdinand (heir to the Austrian throne) in Sarajevo, on 28 June 1914. Now you gotta understand boys, that an Archduke is Royalty, and what's strange about this war is that the Royal families of the main countries involved were all related. For instance Kaiser Billy Wilhelm of Germany is a cousin of Czar Nicholas of Russia, who is also related to England's Queen Victoria, who married a German Prince named Alfred, and they all have Royal cousins in other countries from Spain and Portugal to Italy and Rumanian. So you see, it's very complicated as to who is on whose side and why. Naturally, you realize they are all a little strange from the constant intermarriages, and many are ill with strange diseases or are just plumb loco. But this is who the Europeans trust and love, I guess cause they just don't know no better. Well the war started with a bang, naturally, and both sides thought to gain a quick and decisive victory. As countries chose sides and military ranks swelled, War games were started by all, as a means to determine who could get there "furstest with the mostest", an old Gen N. B. Forrest statement of questionable English language correctness. While planning and playing on blackboards and sand models, these wizened General's, Col's, and Major's forgot that a machineguns aren't just funny noise guns. They also thought that tanks and aero planes were mere toys, and of little or no importance. The Navy had similar feeling about Submarine's and aircraft. So off to war they went and found that casualties were much higher than projected. The Irish, for once, trying to be helpful to the Brits, managed to offer large numbers of men of the 300,000 plus men lost by the Brits, on Flanders field or (Passchendaele, the German name) alone. Why the Irish

Catholic's wanted to fight for the Protestant Brits in Belgium, is still puzzling, considering they just rebelled against the Brits at home in 1916. While the casualty numbers were incredible, the old Generals on both sides often failed to use the new weapons of war to the best advantage, or to find ways to limit their losses. Both sides fought pretty much to a draw, as both sides were running out of people to fight for these royals. But Our President, Woodrow Wilson (a former Klucker), decided we should enter the war that he previously said we would never fight, and got us into the mess (sounds of LBJ). Our new Military leader was General John (Black Jack) Pershing, an older Officer who had chased Pancho Villa in Mexico for years, to no avail. I might add he was another West Pointer. This time our men would see battles not seen by American troops since the American Civil War. A lot of good came of this, as future General's like Patton got to test out their theories on tanks (don't run em in mud and rice paddies), Hap Arnold on aero planes (buy parachutes, and don't mess with the Red Baron), Douglas MacArthur on Infantry and Artillery ( don't attack with horses anymore, and wear gas masks like it or not), Our future Admiral's like King, Nimitz, Halsey, and others learned ( don't mess with German submarines, see the Austrians had none), on submarines (buy torpedoes that explode), and on naval air (find a way to land them on boats). A lot of bad came as well, as American troop losses were high, due to lack of good Marine training, shortages of artillery safe conduct pass shells, or attacking machine gun emplacements without Sgt. York. Many also succumbed to disease and other illnesses ( this is when military VD movies came from). Anyhow, we won and went home to our Banana Wars, while the Brits, Frogs, and Krauts formulated a Peace Treaty that would lead directly to another World War. Meantime our Senior Officer's started playing war planning games, and holding field exercises when monies became available, which was always questionable, due to a small depression ( no not a hole in the ground, dummy) and a lack of interest by Congress in the military, since the "War to end all Wars" was over. We did learn many things in WW1, such as French girls don't shave under their arms or shave their legs, and don't like any foreigner's that don't speak frog or drink wine, even if you are saving them from certain death or being forever called Fraulein. Brits don't like cold beer or Irishmen, the Italians and Japanese were our allies and made good pasta and sukiyaki, the Russians had their own civil war and weren't sure which side they were on or for, the Irish still needed beer and jobs in America, the Spaniards still disliked the Brits for Keeping Gibraltar and the Americans for running them out of Cuba and the Philippines, but they were mum on Puerto Rico. In the end the Royals got back together, as if nothing had happened in the preceding 4 years, and once again began to interbreed, while the Europeans read and watched their travels and adventures, like they were porn movie stars or idols to adore.

### WW11 1939-1945

Like I said boys, the Treaty of Versailles, was a waste of good toilet paper. They smothered the German's and their allies with restrictions for starting WW1, which led to the rise of a disgruntled former German Corporal named Adolph Hitler (actually an Austrian) and also a former paper hanger. He became the leader and Furher of Germany in 1933. Now this weren't no ordinary run- of- the- mill Corporal, as when he got thrown in jail, he didn't just sit and pout. Nosireebob, he wrote a book called Mien Kampf. Well

others began to read it and decided he was right in many ways, although he looked a little strange with his hair astray and his Charlie Chaplin type mustache. Well by God, he took off to stardom faster than an Enron Executive with your money. While this boy built his military up again in secret, he also stole two of our former Allies (the Italian's and the Nipper's) right out from under us. True, the Nips were invading China and other countries, while also believing their Emperor Hirohito was a real God. Meantime the Italians had a new dictator named Mussolini, who for unknown reasons wanted to conquer Ethiopia to recover the old, old Roman Empire. Now there were a lot of people tetched in the head, in those two countries, I mean Hirohito believing he is a real God, and the nipper's thinking it's true? Get Real. Then the bald Mussolini thinking he is the second coming of Sylvester Stallone, or maybe Garibaldi (cause of his bald head). I mean come on boys, there some folks out there that are two cans shy of a six pack, if you know what I mean. Well Mussolini attacks the Ethiopians who only have spears for self defense, and would you believe it, they fought the Italian's to a draw! Meantime the Nipper's are invading China, I mean why not pick the biggest place in the whole world to invade, why dontcha? Needless to say, there are so many Chinese the Nips can't tell if they conquered a city or killed all the enemy or not, since the Chinese are mass producing replacements faster than the nips can do their conquering job. Again, our military starts playing their war games in earnest, as another great war is sure to get us involved. However, with the whole world at war, our boys didn't know which country to invade or defend, so the war games get delayed, besides the Brits borrowed part of our naval fleet. I mean by 1939 everyone is invading everyone else, and nobody is sure which side to support. The Arabs all carry British and German flags, even the Bolivian's don't know whether to support the Chinese, the Nips, the Ghanaians, the Italian's, the USA, the Krauts, or the Venezuelans. I mean the world has gone plumb loco again. Our school kids have double geography classes, just to see which countries still exist and what new ones have been formed. Well, while we are sorting this out the sneaky nips come, unprovoked, and hit our perfectly lined up battleships and airplanes with their Naval Air power. This was placed there by you guessed it, another USNA and another West Point graduate. Well this wakes America up and we go .... to the wall, and finally defeat these tyrants. They didn't play fair, so we dropped some mushroom bombs on them for payback. Many wonder what the poor boys in the war plans and games rooms were doing. Well put yourself in their place and figure if somebody asks "what country are you planning to invade?" and you have to answer "I'm not sure." When asked why we have troops in Africa, you reply to help the Brits kick out the Germans and Italians. When asked why are the Brits in Africa, when the Germans are bombing all the pubs in London, you reply because the Brits have to save their Empire. When someone asks well why not invade Italy for a straight quick run to Berlin, you reply, we can't, Italy is full of Germans. When they ask why not invade through Russia, you explain we don't know who will win on the Eastern front and we could lose all our equipment if the Germans win, besides the Russians are Commie pinko's and they might keep our gear, that is, to fight against us once we help them win this war. If they ask, well why not invade through Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, or Thailand, you explain because they are all neutral countries, and we can't invade neutral countries. So now you can understand that war games are not easy to plan, especially during world wars. As for why we would help the Brits first before the Chinese, well I think it was that while the food was better in China, they speak funny and

don't really know us as well, since they never invaded us like the Brits.

### Korean War 1950-1953

During this war we almost lost our shorts, after just having won the Second WW a mere 5 years earlier. Fortunately, we had another West Point Hero of WW1 and WW2, in the form of the acting Emperor of Japan, none other than General Douglass MacArthur. Now that boy knew we had to buy some time, since his untrained and inexperienced group called Task Force Smith, was hanging onto the Pusan perimeter by their fingernails. Well, Douglass envisioned a great behind the lines landing at Inchon by US Marines, driven to battle by former nip battleship and destroyer commander's, which everybody thought was crazy. But he got it approved by his many junior Officers's in the Pentagon, and got hailed a Hero and Savior once again when it worked. Then at age 70, and while preparing his West Point farewell speech, he got an idea to divide his forces, send them up two skinny routes to the Yalu river, and win the whole dang war by Christmas. The problem was the Chinese, now no longer our friends or allies, decided to invade from North Korea to the South about the same time as Douglass had his revelations, and sent his men North. Well our men got into some real trouble, being surrounded and all, and the boys in the Game Planning section had to rework the winning of the war scenario again. So the boys decided everybody was tired and called it a draw, and both sides went home, and the country remained divided right where the war started. Seems we could have called it a draw right in the beginning and saved the planners and old Doug a lot of mind bustin. What we learned in this war is don't urinate off 1 billion Chinese, just be polite and tell them you like their spring rolls. As for the North Korean's, well they still got hurt feelings for not winning, and also for the time in 1870 when Marine's came to practice shooting their Sharps rifles at their kimshi vats.

### Vietnam 1954-1973

Now here was a war where JFK spared everything to keep us in PRC-6 & 10s, and Angry 9 radios. We also had flamethrowers, 3.5 rocket launchers, and selectors for the fire team automatic rifleman. Sure some of the stuff was WW11 and Korean vintage, but we were only going to stay a short spell in 1965. I thought I heard that "home by Christmas" theme again. Keep in mind the war plans and game boys were getting real smart by now, so we used military script, US dollars, and Vietnamese money all at the same time, to fool the enemy, as well as our own troops. Somebody wasn't right in the head, as I had to carry lots a money to each squad on hill tops, with a Marine carrying a shotgun to guard me in enemy territory! Now tell me those boys weren't a bit slow at disbursing Anyhow, after setting up programs to help the hospitals, orphanages, churches, and village chief's, we found out they were just funnin us. We thought things would go better after JFK had President Diem sent away, but all we got was a passel of Vietnamese military officer's in funny uniforms. So we tried letting them use our donut dollies and USO gals for a cheap price, but that didn't work either. We figured we were in trouble when we got another West Pointer by the name of General William Westmoreland. Although a WW11 poopytrooper, we could tell he was just a pretty boy who was all after glory, and we were supposed to get it for him. Well he sent us here, there, and everywhere, but those critters

were good at hiding, and we didn't get as many as the season allowed. Meantime, Westmoreland got replaced after a spell, by another West Pointer, named General Creighton Abrams, who was also a WW11 veteran. The problem with this boy was he was a tanker from head to toe, which was good, but we didn't need too many tanks in the jungles and rice paddies. Anyhow, he did good until he decided to leave. Well by then we decided to leave too, I mean if the folks don't appreciate our hep, the heck with them is what I say.

### The Gulf War 1990-1991

Now this was a good quick war won in 100 hours. Of course, we spent two gazillion dollars on Smart Bombs, Patriot Missiles, and Tomahawk Missiles, before we sent in the ground troops. Again, somebody did not plan right, since we freed Kuwait and missed the harems in Baghdad. Worse yet, we didn't even fine Saddam for all that pollution he caused, with his oil fires and mines in the Gulf. Now we all know that boy is tetched in the head, but nobody seems to want to practice Human Relations or Hearts and Mind programs with the boy. I mean maybe his daddy and mommy were not nice to him, or he mighta fell on his head climbing out of the camel stall, or whatever. Besides he comes from a minority party, which is why he has to look mean and angry all the time. Think of all the goat milk that poor boy had to drink when he was a young critter.

### Summary

OK boys, that's about it, and I hope you all learned something from this accurate military historical analysis. By the way I live near Ft. Hood where the sojures have some Cavalry units. They like to say "Gary Owens" a lot, which I found out was an Irish drinking song used by Georgie Custer's men in the Indian Wars. Now one would think they could find something better than that, as a way to address one another's Senior. I mean Custer lost! He was a loser! Worse yet, they keep his old 7th Cavalry unit still activated! I mean they could say something more intelligent like "good morning, sir", but not "Gary Owen, Sir". Heck that would be like us Marines addressing our seniors with "Love is a many splendor thing, Sir". I mean it ain't right. Worse yet, they tried to emulate Custer in Vietnam by nearly getting wiped out, cause they forgot to do recon with Injun braves or anybody else in Vietnam. Those boys sure got a long way to go. I went to Randolph AFB in San Antonio and near fell over. I found two Airmen in the same uniform, of course, they didn't conform to all the rest, but there you go. I also saw on TV, sailors on aircraft carriers wearing camouflage utilities, now who do they expect to hide from on a carrier? But not to worry, the legal officer at Randolph AFB was also in cammies, I guess he was ready to defend RAFB, even without a gun. As for FEX's (field exercises), you get in your tent and pretend to be at war, but the tent next over to you is full of communicator's, pretending they were in Santiago, Chile. I mean you could yell over to them to pass the message, but that was not allowed. So I just passed notes under the tent, to make sure them Communications boys didn't sent my troops to Bakersfield instead of Barstow, by reading them shackle things wrong. Now we are talking of attacking Iraq because Saddam might be making weapons of mass destruction, well what do you think a Gattlin

gun or Tommy gun is? I leave you to ponder this important question.-Major F. C. Stolz  
USMC Ret. Sends-©2002, Maj. Stolz