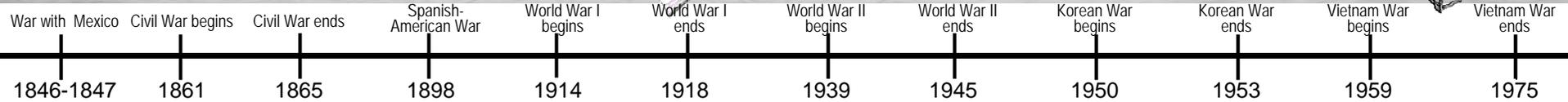


ALABAMA'S MILITARY HISTORY



FORT TOULOUSE CANNON

- The French used this cannon to protect Ft. Toulouse from the British in the early 18th century.
- It was last fired in Montgomery in 1825 to celebrate the inauguration of President John Quincy Adams. The back of the cannon exploded during the firing.

ALABAMA'S MILITIA

- Militia began forming in Alabama even before it became a state in 1819.
- At the start of the Civil War, many of the militia companies were grouped together to form Confederate regiments.

THE CIVIL WAR

- Confederate soldiers (as well as Union) carried haversacks and knapsacks. Haversacks (cloth bags) held their food while knapsacks held clothing and other supplies. Money and other personal items were stuffed into their pockets.

- The average Civil War soldier stood 5'8" tall and weighed approximately 143 pounds. Notice the small size of the uniforms and the saddle on display.



- A common ration for Confederate soldiers was hardtack, a hard, baked cracker made of flour, water, and salt.

U.S.S. MONTGOMERY

- Commissioned in 1894, the vessel served during the Spanish-American War and succeeded in capturing two Spanish ships during the Havana Blockade in 1898.

WORLD WAR I

- 3,600 Alabama National Guardsmen became the 167th U.S. Inf. Reg. during WWI. They fought in five major campaigns in Europe and served in the Army of Occupation in Germany at the end of the war.
- WWI soldiers wore gas masks to protect themselves from the mustard and tear gas that was used by most armies involved in the war.

WORLD WAR II

- The Women's Army Corps (WAC) formed in 1942 and was the first opportunity for women to serve in the military beyond a medical role.
- Ration coupons, which allowed families to buy a limited amount of scarce food, were issued during WWII because of food shortages brought about by the need to feed American soldiers overseas.



KOREAN & VIETNAM WARS

- Compare the weapons, uniforms, helmets, shoes, rations and supplies in these cases to the items found in the World War II, World War I, and Civil War cases. What has changed? What has stayed the same?

