

The map of Bulloch County depicts the psychical barriers of the county in World War I era. This area and the people who live in its borders are the focus of the exhibit. Image courtesy of Ed Jackson's Map Collection.

COMMUNITY AND CONFLICT

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PARTNERED WITH THE BULLOCH COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE



Bulloch County's
MILITARY HERITAGE

Community and Conflict, Bulloch County's Military Heritage exhibit, is an opportunity to explore military history and to honor our County's fallen soldiers. The central exhibition of artifacts will rotate to highlight different aspects of Bulloch's military heritage.

Military history has affected Bulloch County since its establishment in 1796. Soldiers of the Revolution established new lives in the county and Bulloch County citizens have long sacrificed to serve and many sacrificed their lives. To honor those who died in service to this country, this exhibit names fallen Bulloch County soldiers since World War I.

Bulloch County's Military Heritage is a cooperative project of the Georgia Southern University Museum and the Bulloch County Commissioners with support from the Bulloch County Historical Society.

Community and Conflict was curated by Breana James, a Georgia Southern University Master of

Arts in History student, with design assistance from Zee Doebling and overseen by Dr. Brent Tharp, Director of the Georgia Southern University Museum. Special thanks to the many area veterans and their families who have supported the project.

To learn more about Bulloch County's Military Heritage, explore our website! It can be found on the Georgia Southern Museum website at georgiasouthern.edu/museum/. The Bulloch County Military Heritage website includes more interactive exhibits, local research opportunities, educator materials, memorial spaces, and more.

To participate in Bulloch County's Military Heritage by donating artifacts related to a Bulloch County or Georgia Southern veteran, or by being interviewed by the Georgia Southern University Museum, please contact the museum.



Bulloch County's
MILITARY HERITAGE

BULLOCH COUNTY & **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



The Archibald Bulloch Family, by Henry Benbridge, c. 1775.
Courtesy of the Charleston Renaissance Gallery.

Following the establishment of Georgia as a British Colony (1732), the region that became Bulloch County was identified as St. Philip's Parish, which included what is now Bulloch and Bryan Counties. In 1796, the Georgia state legislature created Bulloch County from lands in the previously established Screven and Bryan Counties in 1793.



A map of Georgia showing the Ogeechee River in what was recently named Bulloch county. Map photography collection of Ed Jackson. Courtesy of GeorgiaInfo.

The county was named in honor of Archibald Bulloch (1730-1777) who was a distinguished statesman and patriot during the colonial and Revolutionary War eras.

Bulloch led the Liberty Boys, and the people elected him as the first president of the Provincial Congress of Georgia (1775), and later as a representative to the Continental Congress (1775). His leadership and commitment in establishing an independent Georgia and United States was recognized by his election as the first president and commander in chief of the new state of Georgia's temporary government in June 1776. In that role, it was Archibald Bulloch who, on August 10, 1776, announced to the citizens of Savannah that the "United States of North America" had declared independence from Great Britain.

Revolutionary War Soldiers in Bulloch County

During the American Revolution (1776 to 1783), the region that is now Bulloch County was considered a "great pine wilderness." The few who settled the county initially populated the Ogeechee River corridor.

Following the revolution, many veterans settled and established families in Bulloch County. It is through those families that Bulloch County establishes a link to the American Revolution.

Based on research conducted for many years by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Bulloch County Historical Society, known Revolutionary War veterans who settled in Bulloch County include the following:

David Alderman	Joshua Hodges	Richard Kirkland	Henry Parrish	John Tomlinson
Joseph Anderson	John Holloway	David Lee	Benjamin Richardson	Frederick Williams
Clifton Bowen	William Holloway	Charles McCall	Thomas Rigdon	James Williams
William Henry Cone	James Jernigan	John Mikell, Jr.	John Roberts	Seth Williams
William Denmark	Bridger Jones	William Monk	John Stanford	Samuel Williams
John Everett	James Jones	John Nevill	Hustus Studstill	William Wise
Joseph Hodges	John Kirkland	John Sears Olliff	John Tillman	

1800

1900

2000

1732-1796

BULLOCH COUNTY & THE CIVIL WAR

After the controversial election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States on November 6, 1860, several southern states seceded from the nation. The Georgia Secession Convention gathered in January 1861 in Milledgeville. Samuel Harville, a 33-year-old merchant, and

Samuel L. Moore, a 46-year-old farmer, served as Bulloch County's delegates. On January 19, the delegates voted 208-89 to adopt an Ordinance of Secession to join the Confederate States of America. Both Harville and Moore voted for the ordinance.

Confederate States of America units raised in Bulloch County

In response to the Confederacy's call to arms, at least nine military units or companies were formed in Bulloch County. Often, these units attached to larger Confederate regiments or armies, and they fought in many battles and theaters throughout the war.

It is difficult to precisely determine how many men served, their names, and how many died during the war. Past researchers indicate that Bulloch County had approximately 750 white men of military service age in 1860; it is estimated that 600 (80%) of those men served.

1. "Toombs Guards" - Company I, 9th Regiment, Georgia Infantry
2. "Bulloch Guards" or WW. Williams Company
- Company C, 47th Georgia Infantry
3. "Caper's Volunteers" or DeLoach's Company
- Company K, 47th Georgia Infantry
4. "DeKalb Guards" or Tillman's Company
- Company D, 61st Georgia Infantry
5. "Bulloch Troop" - Company C, 2nd Battalion, Georgia Cavalry (also Co E, 5th GA Cav)
6. "Miller's Rangers" or Hardwick Mounted Rifles
- Company H, 7th Georgia Cavalry
7. "Ben Hill Guards" - Company C,
38th Georgia Infantry (raised in Bulloch & Emanuel Counties)
8. "Brannen's Company" - 12th (Wright's) Cavalry, Georgia State Guard
9. Militia Units drawn from Bulloch County
and the 17th Military District (1864)

1 Private Ichabod Newsome from Macedonia was a member of the Bulloch Troops. Courtesy of Images of America's Bulloch County.

2 Robert DeLoach, from near Portal, was a member of the Bulloch Troops. The unit was eventually attached to the 5th Georgia Cavalry. Courtesy of the Georgia Southern University Special Collections.

Civil War Actions in Bulloch County



On his destructive March to the Sea, General Sherman broke down Confederate defenses and passed through Bulloch County on his way to Savannah. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

During his "March to the Sea," General Sherman strategically aimed to bring the reality of war to the southern population through the destruction of civilian and commercial infrastructure required to sustain the southern war effort. Union and Confederate forces in Bulloch County experienced contact during General Sherman's "March to the Sea." Most notable was the skirmish that took place as Union forces attempted to move through Statesboro from the north on December 4, 1864.

As the city was approached from the north, a force of an estimated 600 Confederate cavalrymen, including the "Bulloch Troops," unsuccessfully confronted the Union soldiers. Following the "Skirmish at Statesboro," Sherman's troops burned the courthouse, at the time a log-cabin structure. His troops, required to live off the land, foraged the town by stripping some homes bare of food, stores, and livestock. It resulted in a great deal of hardship for many county families and their enslaved. Some African Americans, both enslaved and free, escaped the county with the Union troops.



1



2

1800

1900

2000

1861-1865



BULLOCH COUNTY'S MILITARY SERVICE FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR

Prior to the Spanish-American War, Georgia had established an "Organized Militia" to train men for service during state and national emergencies. These "Georgia Volunteers" and later "Georgia State Troops" units were the forerunners of the modern National Guard.



On the drill grounds of Camp Chickamauga, Georgia, 1898. Library of Congress.

The Spanish-American War

War with Spain was declared on April 21, 1898 following the mysterious explosion of the battleship USS Maine in harbor at Havana, Cuba. Anticipating the invasion of Spanish possessions such as Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine Islands, the federal government requested that states

supply troops for Foreign Service. In response, Georgia established three infantry regiments and two light artillery batteries. A number of Bulloch County residents volunteered during this first call and were mustered into service during May 1898 at Camp Northern in Griffin, GA.



Bulloch County's first Georgia Volunteers unit, the Kell Rifles, c. 1898.

Kell Rifles

Bulloch County's first formally recognized Georgia Volunteers unit was the "Kell Rifles" which was officially established on December 3, 1893.

The unit was named in honor of General John McIntosh Kell, a Georgia native who was then the Adjutant General of the Georgia Volunteers. On September 25, 1894, the Kell Rifles was designated as Company G, 1st Regiment of Infantry, Georgia Volunteers headquartered in Savannah. Reorganization of the 1st Infantry in November 1899 resulted in the Kell Rifles being designated as Company F, 1st Regiment of Infantry, Georgia State Troops. The Kell Rifles was disbanded on January 25, 1902. Spanish-American War actions by United States naval and military forces took place in the Caribbean and Pacific. These actions involved several American victories, which prompted the Spanish to seek peace. Hostilities ended abruptly on August 12, 1898 before the Georgia Volunteers could be deployed. The Bulloch County men were discharged from service at Camp Rae in Macon on November 18, 1898 with their respective units.

Statesboro Volunteers

The "Statesboro Volunteers" organized on March 31, 1903 assigned as Company A, 1st Regiment Infantry, Georgia State Troops.

This unit was disbanded on November 23, 1905. Statesboro would not again serve as home station to a State Troop or National Guard unit until 1927.



The Georgia Hussars served as a cavalry unit since before the American Revolution. This photo shows a group of men in Troop A, 1st Squadron, which was a unit from 1875 to 1889, and was known as the 1st Cavalry Regiment for the remainder of the Spanish-American War.

1800

1900

2000

1893-1905



Bulloch County's
MILITARY HERITAGE

BULLOCH COUNTY & **WORLD WAR I**

In 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and entered "The Great War" that raged in Europe since 1914. To provide military forces large enough to support the Allied nations, President Wilson approved the Selective Service Draft Act to supplement the number of men who volunteered for service. On June 5, 1917, all men in the United States aged 21 to 31 years old, both white and black, were required to register for the first draft.

In Bulloch County, news of the war was met with mixed emotion. While county residents generally supported the war, several citizens and local officials opposed the idea of conscription. Following a series of public meetings and a vote, county residents resolved to support the President's declaration of war and call for conscription.



Bulloch County Soldier Hudson Saturday, of the Willow Hill community, c. 1918.

Servicemen from Bulloch County



Soldier Rufus B. Jones, of the Willow Hill community, 1918.

Bulloch County registered 2,242 men in the first draft. Thirty-six men selected to fill the county's first quota of draftees departed in early September 1917. A second registration conducted on June 5, 1918, enlisted men who became 21 after the first draft. The final registration of the war called for men aged 18 to 46 years old. This was held on September 12, 1918 and 1,188 Bulloch County men enrolled.

African Americans likewise rushed to register for the draft. Until this

point, the United States limited African American units, even though African Americans have fought in United States conflicts since the American Revolution, though not always by choice. The United States encouraged them to enter military service so that the nation could supply adequate forces. Although enlistment rates were high for African Americans in World War I, they were placed in segregated units. Desegregation of military units was not ordered until 1948 and was not complete until 1953. African Americans have made significant contributions to American military efforts, which have not always been recognized or celebrated.

In addition to the draft, both white and black men could volunteer for service and many did, although troops remained segregated until 1948. Of the approximately 3,583 Bulloch County men registered for the draft, an estimated 475 men were conscripted, and many others served

voluntarily. By the end of the war, an estimated 2.8 million American men were drafted and 2 million volunteered. Bulloch County lost 26 men while in service during World War I, which ended on November 11, 1918.



James Williams of Brooklet, GA (standing) and his friend, Francis Scott of Sylvania (seated). Williams died when the troop ship HMS Otranto wrecked in heavy seas, October 6, 1918.

1800

1900

2000

1914-1918



Bulloch County's
MILITARY HERITAGE

STATESBORO'S NATIONAL GUARD FOLLOWING WORLD WAR I

2nd Battalion, 214th Artillery at Statesboro, 1969.



The modern era of Statesboro's National Guard began in the years following World War I

In 1919, Dr. A.J. Mooney and Leroy Cowart led efforts to establish a National Guard company in Statesboro. Although public announcements were made to solicit enlistments, no record of the formation of this company can be found.

Homer C. Parker, Mayor of Statesboro, became the appointed Adjutant-General of the Georgia National Guard in 1927. Parker's appointment sparked the establishment of a "State Staff Enlisted Detachment" in Statesboro. This detachment was Statesboro's first post-WWI National Guard unit. Captain Leroy Cowart served as commanding officer and the unit remained active through around March 1930.

The State Staff Enlisted Detachment moved to Atlanta in 1930. As a result, Statesboro became the home station of the newly-formed 264th Coast Artillery Battalion, Georgia National Guard. The local men who served in the State Staff Enlisted Detachment were transferred to the 264th Coast Artillery, and other local men ages 18 to 45 years volunteered to join the unit.

As military technology and national defense needs evolved since 1930, the Statesboro based National Guard unit reorganized to retain its effectiveness. Consequently, the unit also changed names. In addition, transportation improved, and mobility increased for Georgians which afforded men and women more options regarding the units in which they served.

National Guard unit composition expanded from predominantly local men to include men and women who may reside in neighboring cities or counties.



Maj. Gen. Edward M. Almond, Commanding General of the 92nd Infantry ('Buffalo') Division in Italy, inspects his troops during a decoration ceremony, ca. March 1945.
Courtesy of the National Archives.

The following chronology reflects the various unit designations and evolving mission of the local unit:

1930-1939: HQ Detachment, Battery A, and Medical Detachment, 264th Coast Artillery Battalion (BN).

1939-1941: Battery C, 214th Coast Artillery Regiment (REGT), Anti-Aircraft.

1941-1945: The 214th Coast Artillery REGT was inducted into federal service on November 25, 1940 and trained at Camp Stewart and other locations until its deployment to the South Pacific in September 1942. After staging through New Zealand and New Caledonia, the regiment landed on Guadalcanal Island January 30, 1943. There the unit was responsible for the defense of Henderson Field and redesignated as the 214th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group. The original batteries were redesignated as the 528th AAA Gun BN, 950th AAA Gun BN, 250th AAA Searchlight BN, and the 950th AW BN. The 214th AAA Group earned campaign credits for Guadalcanal and New Guinea and was located on Morotai Island at the end of the war. The 214th AAA Group was deactivated in January 1946.

1947: A Statesboro-based unit was re-activated as the 101st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion with the HQ & HQ Battery and Battery A stationed in Statesboro.

1950, August 14: Called to federal service for the Korean War. Trained at Camp Stewart and Camp McCoy (Wisconsin), and federal service ended on April 13, 1952 without deployment to Korea.

1953: Redesignated as 101st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion.

1959, July: Redesignated as Battery A, 2nd Gun Battalion, 214th Artillery.

1962, May: A new Armory building located on Highway 301 North is completed. Reorganized and designated as 265th Engineer Battalion.

1963, April: Reorganized as HQ & HQ Company, 3rd Battalion (Mechanized), 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Armored Division.

1968-August 1993: Redesignated as HQ & HQ Battery, 2nd Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, 118th Field Artillery Brigade.

1993-2007: Reorganized and designated as HQ & HQ Company (HHC), 648th Engineer Battalion (Sapper), 48th Infantry Brigade. During this time period, Detachment 1 of Company A, 648th Engineer BN was also located in Statesboro. In 2001, personnel of the 648th deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina to support Task Force Eagle operations. During 2005 to 2006, the 648th Engineers served in Iraq and suffered three men killed during combat operations.

SGT Jerry Lewis Gandy, Jr. of Folkston, GA

SPC Matthew V. Gibbs of Ambrose, GA

SGT 1st Class Charles H. Warren of Duluth, GA

2007: Reorganized and designated as 48th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB), 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

June 2009-May 2010: Deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During that operation, two 48th BSTB men were killed in action while attached to other units within the 48th IBCT.

SGT Brock Henry Chavers of Porterdale, GA

SPC Isaac Lee Johnson of Columbus, GA

1800

1900

2000

1914-

BULLOCH COUNTY & **WORLD WAR II**

In 1940, Bulloch County was an agriculturally based rural county with a population of 26,010 residents. The main source of entertainment and news was the radio. It was through the radio on December 7th, a peaceful Sunday afternoon, that news came which forever altered American life: the Japanese attacked the United States Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

America responded to Pearl Harbor immediately. December 8, 1941, President Roosevelt made his "Day of Infamy" speech to Congress and asked for a declaration of war against the Axis nations. The attack on Pearl Harbor lasted for one hour and fifty minutes. The war which followed lasted for three years and nine months.



Bulloch County residents gathered for a 4-H Club livestock show in 1941, which was common for the time. Courtesy of Images of America.



The USS Arizona burns and sinks following the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Cost of World War II

World War II was the costliest war in history in terms of the loss of life. Among the Axis Powers, Germany suffered about 3.5 million battle dead, Japan 1.5 million, and Italy about 200,000. Among the Allies, the USSR endured the heaviest battle casualties with as many as 7.5 million dead. 2.2 million Chinese combatants perished from July 1937 until September 1945. The British lost more than 300,000 dead, and France lost 210,000. Approximately 25 million civilian men, women, and children also died as a direct result of the war. In addition, the Nazi regime killed at least 6 million Jews, and over 1 million Roma, homosexual people, people with disabilities, Jehovah's Witnesses, Poles, and over 7 million Soviets.

By the official Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945, 292,000 American combatants, including at least 7,000 Georgians, died while serving the Allied Nations. Sixty-two Bulloch County men died while serving during World War II.



World War II Flings 10 Pals To All Parts of The Globe

The Bulloch Herald reported February 28, 1946 about ten friends who joined the military after graduating from Statesboro High School. They went to various places like Japan and Germany. One, John Darley, died in action during the D-Day assaults at Normandy, France.



Lucile Nessmith Vail Smith, a WAC servicewoman from Bulloch County, worked in the Savannah Shipyard where she welded war machinery to send overseas.

Women in World War II

The American Army expanded during this time through an auxiliary unit when it created the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in May 1942. The WAC servicewomen became the first women other than nurses to serve within the ranks of the United States Army.

Over 150,000 women served in WWII, aiding war efforts by performing noncombat military jobs both domestically and worldwide. At first, assignments included three limited specialties to switchboard operators, mechanics, and bakers. Later jobs diversified to include Postal Clerk, Driver, Stenographer, Clerk-Typist, Armorers and more. The WAC disbanded in 1978 and all units integrated with male units. Servicewomen have been allowed in combat situations since 1994.



Bulloch County's
MILITARY HERITAGE

BULLOCH COUNTY & **THE VIETNAM WAR**



Crossing a Vietnamese river. Photo by Bulloch County soldier Robert McGinn.

The roots of America's large-scale military involvement in Vietnam can be linked to the Cold War. The United States sought to prevent the spread of Communism in Southeast Asia in the mid-1950's by supporting the government of South Vietnam against Communist North Vietnam. The U.S. assumed financial and military responsibility of South Vietnam after its colonial ruler, France, left the country in 1954.

When North Vietnamese forces attacked two American naval vessels in August 1964, the U.S. Congress passed the "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution," which authorized the President to use military action to protect U.S. forces in South Vietnam. This gave the United States more authority to wage war.

The war escalated from early 1965, and the end of 1967 saw over 500,000 troops in Vietnam. The Tet Offensive in early 1968 marked a turning point. While this battle resulted in a military defeat for the Communists, they gained a psychological victory by demonstrating resolve to unite their divided country under a communist government. During this time, the war became highly controversial in the United States. Anti-war marches and disapproval from the media became common on the home front. Students on Georgia Southern's campus led anti-war rallies in 1969.

Negotiations between North Vietnam and the United States began in the spring of 1968. The Paris Peace Accords were finalized on January 27, 1973 and U.S. military activity in Southeast Asia ceased during the spring of 1973. South Vietnam fell to North Vietnam during an invasion in 1975, which officially ended the war. Over 58,000 American men and women died in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, including seven Bulloch County residents.



Refueling a North American T-28 Trojan. These aircraft were used by the US Air Force, Navy, and Vietnam Air Force to support ground operations. Photo by Bulloch County soldier Robert Zetterower.



Jerry Frazier, Bulloch County native, in his helicopter in 1966.

The Statesboro Airport and Combat Skyspot

During the war, the United States government federalized local airports across the nation to support war efforts, including the Statesboro Airport. The Statesboro Airport became part of Combat Skyspot, an operation that aimed to improve American strategic bombing and close air support through new methods and technology.

Low bombing accuracy, high accident rates, and an absence of standardization plagued bomber crews. Combat Skyspot attempted to remedy these issues through radar bombing and electronic warfare. A navigator from the ground signaled a combat pilot in B-52 planes to drop a weapon when he reached his target, later called dropping tones.

Combat Skyspot employed US Air Force pilots to fly practice missions throughout the United States to electronically bomb specific targets. As one of these locations, the Statesboro Airport was electronically "bombed" throughout the war. By 1966, these mock missions were transferred into combat in the Vietnam War. It was not a complete solution to complications in the Southeast Asian landscape because the thick vegetation inhibited radar from its ultimate effectiveness, but Skyspot methods were used in over 150,000 tactical air strikes and 75 percent of all B-52 strikes between 1966 and 1973.



Despite protests against the Vietnam War, one Bulloch County soldier, Jon Middleton, returned to Statesboro in 1970 after his deployment. The Holiday Inn wrote on their sign "Welcome Home Jon Middleton" for the occasion.



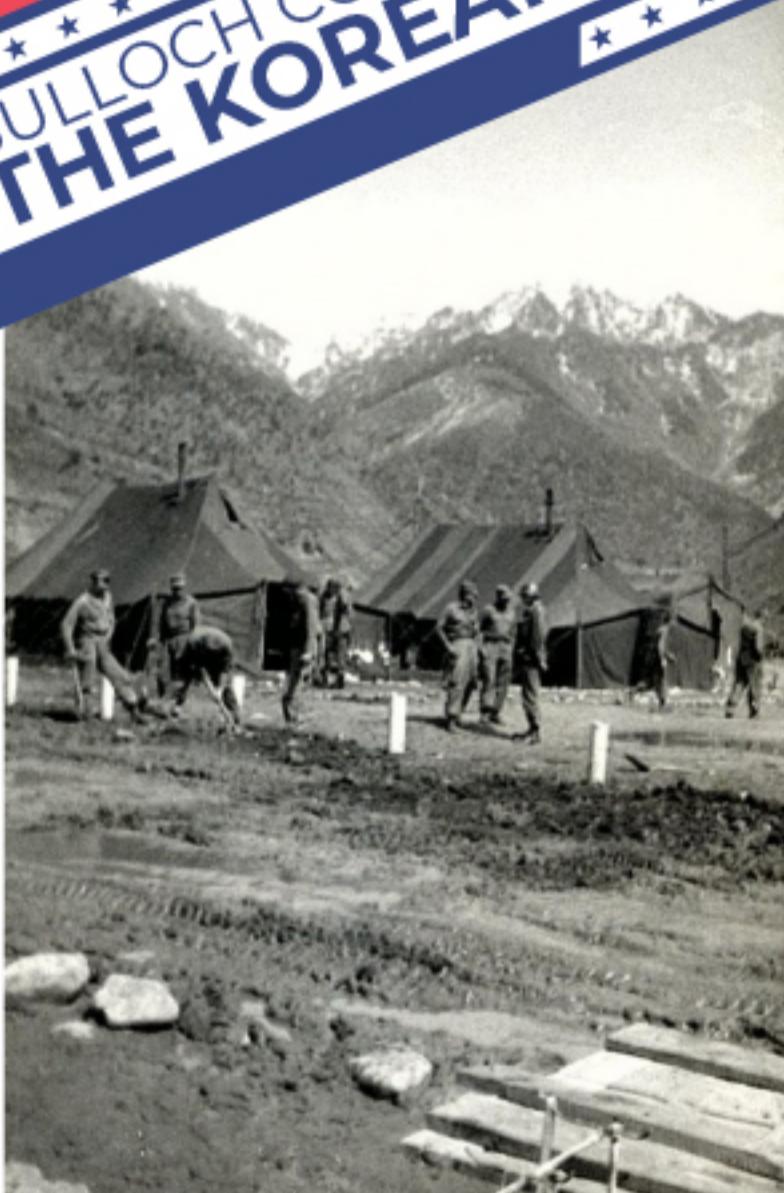
1800

1900

2000

1954-1975

BULLOCH COUNTY & THE KOREAN WAR



Soldiers camped in a valley during the Korean War.

Significantly, the Korean War was the first armed conflict of the Cold War, which lasted from 1945 to 1990. During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union opposed one another in economics and politics, which resulted in severe hostility, characterized by engaging in threats, propaganda campaigns, and costly armed conflicts. The United States feared a communist campaign led by the Soviet Union that would take over the world. The Korean War was seen as a means to stop their efforts by supporting the South Korean government and people.

Nearly 37,000 American servicemen lost their lives in three years, and most losses concentrated in the first year. This is a significantly higher figure per year compared to the Vietnam War in which 58,000 American casualties spread over ten years. Five Bulloch County men were killed in action or died while being held prisoner during the Korean War.



Soldiers standing in front of the Rock Island Arsenal M101.

The Korean War began when North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea in the early hours of June 25, 1950. The war featured some of the most intense fighting ever experienced by American soldiers -- and some of the worst conditions.

The Korean War is often referred to as the "Forgotten War" because American memory historically overshadowed it with World War II and the Vietnam War.

The United States faced severe trials and staggering accomplishments during the war: the humiliating retreat of inexperienced U.S. soldiers in the opening days of the war; the brilliant Inchon landings masterminded by General MacArthur; the grittiness exhibited in Chosin by the 1st Marine Division surrounded by a vast Chinese force; and the savage hill fights ensuing during the last years of the conflict. Hostilities ceased in July 1953 with the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement.



The Rock Island Arsenal M101 was towed artillery designed for best use in non-line-of-sight fire to support infantry, like those in the valley here. It had its origins in World War I, and was used in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Bulloch County's
MILITARY HERITAGE

**BULLOCH COUNTY &
THE GULF WAR**



M1A1 Abrams tanks heading to face the Iraqi Republican Guard during Operation Desert Storm, c. 1990. Courtesy of U.S. Navy, Phc. D.W. Holmes II, and Defense Media Network.



An aerial view of an Allied military encampment in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm. Courtesy of the Department of Defense.

Also referred to as the "Persian Gulf War," this conflict resulted from the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi Army under orders of dictator Saddam Hussein. The United States responded to the crisis as part of an international coalition sponsored by the United Nations. The war consisted of two phases to expel Iraqi forces: Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.



Georgia Southern University alumni sporting the University flag while serving in the Gulf War. Courtesy of Sergeant First Class Bryan O'Neal.

Operation Desert Shield involved the build-up of troops and material in Kuwait. From August to November, American officials met to negotiate and coordinate an attack on the invading Iraqi troops. In November, the United Nations Security Council authorized United States involvement and in January, Congress backed the decision. Operation Desert Storm was the combat phase. This started on January 16, 1991 with a massive air bombing campaign of targets in Iraq and Kuwait designed to cripple Iraq's military resources and defenses. The ground campaign began on February 24, 1991 and quickly routed the Iraqi Army and Hussein's elite Republican Guard divisions. The war concluded in just three days with minimal casualties to the United States led coalition forces. Kuwait was liberated, and cease-fire terms were formalized on March 3, 1991. Iraq officially accepted the cease-fire terms on April 6, 1991.

A total of 382 Americans died in the theater of operations during the Gulf War. Of that number, 147 were battle-related deaths. While many Bulloch County residents served in regular, reserve, and National Guard units during the Gulf War, none died or were killed in the war zone.

BULLOCH COUNTY & **WAR ON TERROR**



The World Trade Center was hit with a plane driven by a terrorist on September 11, 2001.
Courtesy of Spencer Platt and Getty Images.

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and a failed attack on the White House or Capitol largely caused a launch of the War on Terror (Global War on Terrorism or GWOT).

The attacks, still remembered by generations of Americans today, resulted in the deaths of 2,977 American civilians and military service personnel. As indicated by President George W. Bush in June 2002, the purpose of this war was to protect the United States and its allies from terrorists or rogue regimes and to further democracy and liberty throughout the world. Within the first 100 days, he and the U.S. government increased homeland security and began the war's first military operation, Operation Enduring Freedom.

Operations of the War on Terror

Since the Gulf War, the United States has been involved in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other Middle Eastern countries as part of the War on Terror.

The Iraq War, often defined as part of the War on Terror, began in 2003 as Operation Iraqi Freedom and ended in 2011. The U.S.-led ground invasion sought to eliminate Saddam Hussein's regime and find the state's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs).

In 2014, the Obama presidency announced that combat in Afghanistan ceased. Since the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS/ISIL) terrorist group initiated a new directive, Operation Inherent Resolve and reignited American involvement in Iraq. Many Bulloch County men and women have served their country at home and abroad during the Global War on Terror and continue to enlist as active servicemen and women. As of 2019, it is known that three men lost their lives while in military service.



Four Georgia Southern students - Russ Waters, Asa Akins, Keaton Russell, and Andrew Mecklin - deployed as Marine Reservists to Iraq in October 2008 as members of F Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. Courtesy of Sergeant First Class Bryan Neal.



U.S. Marines of F Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion on extended patrol in Iraq celebrating Christmas in 2008. Corporal Asa Akins of Bulloch County, far left, front row. Courtesy of Asa Akins.