

National treasure hunt

20 unsung artifacts of historic appeal

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE: Visit www.militarytimes.com/artifactsforum/ and tell us what you think are the most interesting artifacts of war.

By Jason Watkins
 Military history abounds across the country — if you know where to look. From Gen. George S. Patton's Cadillac to the flag that flew over Iwo Jima in Joe Rosenthal's iconic photograph, we uncovered some of the most interesting artifacts on display to the public from past wars. We've omitted the obvious landmarks — the Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington, D.C., and key Civil War battlefields, for example — and included some you may not have thought of. Each one illustrates the storied past of American military campaigns from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam.

GRAPHIC BY CHRIS BROZ/STAFF

SYMBOL KEY

Army	Air Force/aviation	Navy/maritime	Marine Corps
Civil War	Revolutionary War	Historical document/flag	Memorial



1 Air Force One
 The world's first fighter plane, the Caproni Ca 20, and the first presidential jet, a Boeing VC-137B used by President Eisenhower, are on display at the King County International Airport/Boeing Field of south Seattle.
<http://www.museumofflight.org>

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6 Bighorn County, Mont.
 See where Lt. Col. George Custer made his last stand during the Indian Wars against Sitting Bull. The Custer Battlefield National Monument honors the soldiers who died during this particularly bloody battle in 1876.
<http://www.nps.gov/libi>

5 White Sands Missile Range, N.M.
 The world's first atomic bomb was detonated July 16, 1945, at White Sands Missile Range. Because of residual radiation, visitors are allowed access to ground zero only twice a year — on the first Saturdays of April and October.
<http://wsmr.army.mil/wsmr.asp>

3 San Diego
 The Midway — America's so-called "Hero Ship" — is the longest-serving carrier in military history. Commissioned in 1945 and sailing its final mission during Operation Desert Storm, the ship served for 47 years and was home to more than 200,000 service members. It is now a museum.
<http://www.midway.org>

4 Tucson, Ariz.
 The 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, or "the boneyard," is the final resting place of nearly 5,000 decommissioned aircraft from all branches of the military. Tours are conducted solely by the Pima Air & Space Museum.
<http://www.pimaair.org>

7 Vietnam dog tags
 More than 58,000 dog tags hang from the ceiling of the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, listing each service member killed in the Vietnam War. The exhibit, titled "Above and Beyond," has been on permanent display since 2001.
<http://www.nvnam.org>

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9 Fort Knox, Ky.
 Gen. George S. Patton suffered fatal wounds in an automobile accident in Germany in December 1945. The Cadillac Model 75 he was riding in was repaired and is on display at the General George Patton Museum.
<http://www.generalpatton.org>

10 Port Columbus, Ga.
 The hull of the Confederate States Ship Muscogee, burned and sunk by Gen. James H. Wilson's Union troops, is on display at Georgia's National Civil War Museum. The museum is the only one in the nation that tells the story of two separate navies during the Civil War.
<http://www.portcolumbus.org>

11 Fredericksburg, Va.
 In the evening hours, Confederate soldier Richard Rowland Kirkland offered water, clothes and blankets to every injured enemy fighter during the Battle of Fredericksburg. A statue honoring him marks the battlefield.
<http://www.fredericksburg.com/CivilWar/Battle/kirkland.htm>

8 Point Pleasant, Ohio
 Visit the home where President Ulysses S. Grant was born on April 27, 1822, near Cincinnati. The home was once placed on a railcar and displayed around the U.S. Visitors can tour the restored three-room cottage, which was built in 1817.
<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/sw08/index.shtml>

19 Harrisburg, Pa.
 The last battle map used by Gen. Robert E. Lee during the Civil War is on display at the National Civil War Museum in Pennsylvania. The map was used before his surrender during the Appomattox campaign.
<http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org>

12 Richmond, Va.
 The coat Gen. Robert E. Lee wore on the day of the South's surrender at Appomattox is on display at the Museum of the Confederacy. His personal side arm is also there.
<http://www.moc.org>

20 Lexington, Mass.
 Built in 1799, the Revolutionary Monument is the oldest war memorial in the nation and marks the final resting place of the first war casualties, eight soldiers who died in the War of Independence. The monument is on the Lexington Battle Green.

13 Norfolk, Va.
 Reflect on the meaning of duty, honor and country at the resting place of Gen. George MacArthur, one of the military's most celebrated figures and a Medal of Honor recipient. The general was interred in 1964 in the former Norfolk City Hall.
<http://www.macarthurmemorial.org>

18 Washington, D.C.
 The flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the national anthem is on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History scheduled to reopen in late November.
<http://www.americanhistory.si.edu>

17 Chantilly, Va.
 See the B-29 Superfortress that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, a branch of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.
<http://www.nasm.si.edu/museum/udvarhazy>

16 Triangle, Va.
 One of the two original flags to fly atop Mount Suribachi after the battle of Iwo Jima is at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The flag on display is the second raised that day, immortalized in Joe Rosenthal's photograph.
<http://www.usmcmuseum.org>

15 Washington, D.C.
 Two original copies of the address, written in President Abraham Lincoln's hand, are on display at the Library of Congress. Historians believe either the Nicolay copy or the Hay copy was used by the president on the day of his address.
<http://www.loc.gov>

14 Washington, D.C.
 The uniform waistcoat and breeches worn by George Washington during the Revolutionary War are on display at the newly renovated National Museum of American History. His command tent is also exhibited. The museum will reopen in late November.
<http://www.americanhistory.si.edu>

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