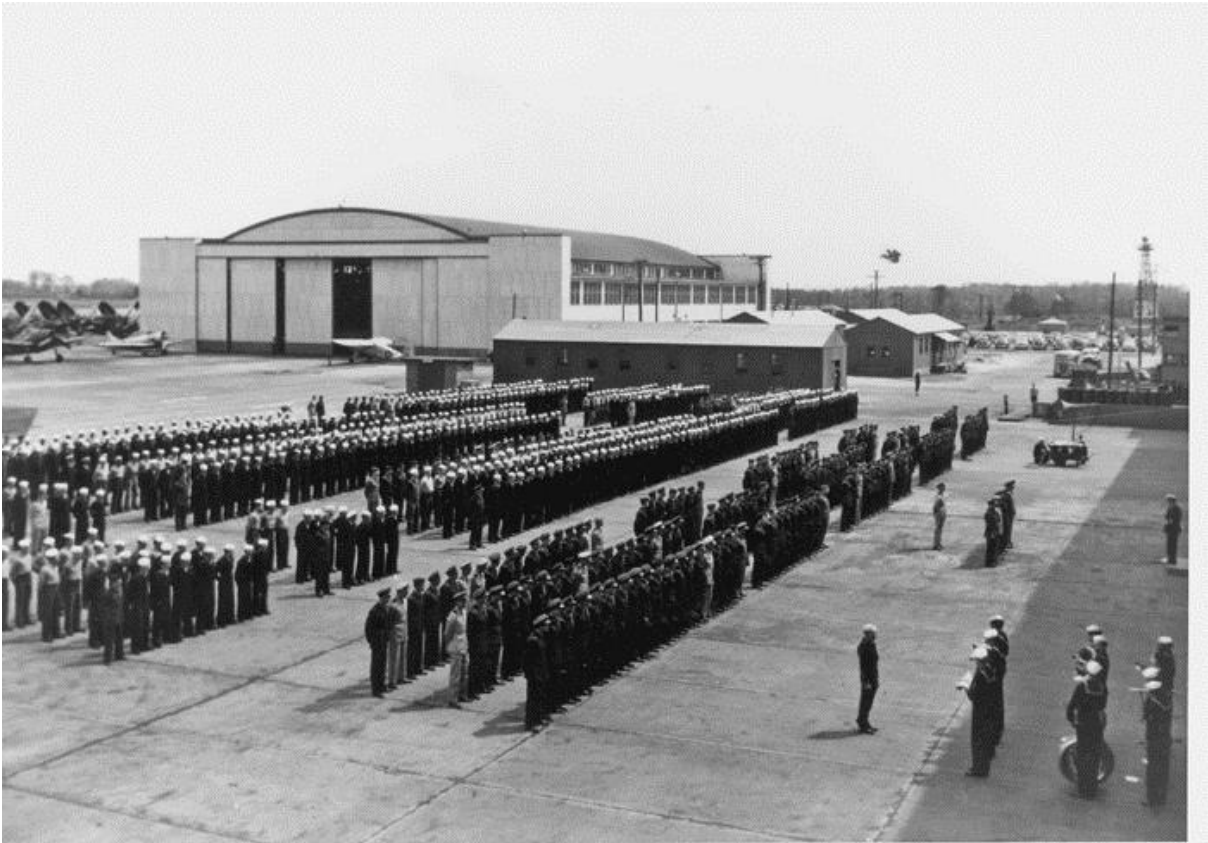


# NEW JERSEY IN CONFLICT



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## **New Jersey in Conflict**

The last battle waged on New Jersey soil occurred in June of 1780. This doesn't mean, though, that New Jersey played no role in the other conflicts of the American past. The history of warfare in New Jersey involves European settlement, military service, war production, defense preparedness, weapons research, and citizen activities on the home front. These stories find voice at the many historic sites, museums, monuments and memorials that commemorate New Jersey's military history. This essay offers a broad look at the place of war in the history of the state over the course of four hundred years, highlighting many of the remarkable and surprising places where visitors can experience this history first hand.

### **Colony to State**

The early colonial years were more peaceful in what became New Jersey than in most of North America, though they were not free of violence. In settling the area, Dutch and English settlers clashed with Native Americans. While there is little remaining physical evidence of these barbarities, the artifacts and imprint of Native Americans on the landscape has since been preserved and is interpreted in a number of archeological sites and museums, including the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton.

Europeans also fought one another. When the British ousted the Dutch from New Netherland in 1664, New Jersey was drawn into a competition for control of North America that fueled four wars between 1689 and 1763. It was not a battleground in any of the four, but the colonial legislature did commit soldiers to British war efforts in a manner that set a pattern. Lawmakers reserved the colony's militia for nearby duties of short duration while in times of prolonged warfare, they deployed formally trained companies known as "Jersey Blues." The name was first used by a company commissioned to march on Montreal during King George's War (1744-8), the third of the four colonial wars. The name stuck; companies of New

Jersey soldiers continued to use the name through the Civil War, over one hundred years later.

The last of the colonial wars, known in North America as the French and Indian War, began in the Ohio River valley in 1754. Initially it went badly for Anglo-American units. The decimation of the Jersey Blues in 1757, during a battle at Lake George in upstate New York, is immortalized in New Jersey native James Fenimore Cooper's 1826 novel *The Last of the Mohicans*. Cooper was born in Burlington. His family home is now maintained by the Burlington County Historical Society and is open for visitors.

During the French and Indian War, New Jersey saw as many as one quarter of its non-Quaker, fighting-age men in uniform. Within the colony, much of the fighting with the Indians happened along the Delaware River border with Pennsylvania, where European settlers and local natives had long been engaged in a guerilla-warfare-like struggle for control of the land. Indians, aligned with the French, killed nearly 30 people in Sussex County before the 1758 Treaty of Easton settled most native claims to land east of the Delaware River. To defend against these skirmishes, and fearing further raids deeper into New Jersey, the colonial government called for eight frontier forts to be built along the Delaware River from Belvidere north into New York State. The act to establish the forts was adopted, "to enable the Inhabitants of this Colony, to protect and defend their Frontiers from any Invasions." Noting that residents of Sussex County were "quitting their habitations in the utmost confusion," it provided for the hiring of 250 men to serve at the forts. Most of the forts are no longer evident, but the ruins of one, Shapanak Fort, is visible today adjacent to Van Campen's Inn in Walpack Township, within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

The most notable New Jersey structure remaining from the French and Indian War is the [Old Barracks](#) in Trenton, also along the border with Pennsylvania and now a living history museum. The colonial assembly authorized its construction in 1758 to provide quarters for housing British troops. Similar facilities in Bordentown, New Brunswick, Perth Amboy and Princeton turned sleepy hamlets into busy garrison towns. The barracks in Trenton is the sole survivor.

Great Britain decisively won the French and Indian War, which ended in 1763. But the victory saddled it with heavy debt. To reduce the expense of maintaining the expanding British Empire, the Parliament imposed new taxes on the colonists. Resistance to these revenue measures grew and finally pushed the colonists into rebellion. New Jerseyans were slow to get involved as this movement grew into a campaign for independence. But, not for the last time, the state's strategic location destined it to play a major role in armed conflict.

### **New Jersey in the Revolution**

New Jersey well deserves its reputation as the "Crossroads of the American Revolution." Not only did Washington's army crisscross the state and spend three winters on New Jersey soil, but the war also pivoted here. Both sides believed control of the Hudson River Valley could be the key to an early victory, and both sides prepared to fight for New York City before independence was declared in July 1776. By November the fight for New York was over. Patriot forces fled across New Jersey as British troops nipped at their heels. Thomas Paine famously wrote during the retreat that for supporters of independence, those were "the times that try men's souls." It was, however, also the moment when American military fortunes reversed.

General George Washington's audacious 1776 Christmas Eve attack on Hessian Troops stationed at the [Old Barracks](#) turned the struggle towards the Patriot cause. After crossing the icy Delaware River just north of Trenton, under cover of night, surprising and routing the Hessians stationed at the Barracks, Washington won a second victory in Trenton and another in Princeton in early January 1777. Today, [Washington Crossing State Park](#) and [Princeton Battlefield State Park](#) share the stories of these crucial victories, including the annual Christmas Day reenactment of Washington's Delaware River crossing.

Morristown proved to be a central location for the Continental Army and its commanders. Following the Battle of Princeton, the army settled there in January 1777, commanders in local homes, soldiers billeted in various other structures. Washington and his army stayed until May. With Washington at Morristown, British troops set sail for Philadelphia. Their advance up the Delaware River was slowed,

but not halted, by colonial units at Fort Mifflin on the Pennsylvania side and Fort Mercer in New Jersey. During the winter of 1777-78, the Red Coats made camp in Philadelphia while Washington and the Continental forces bedded down at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The soldiers were tired, cold, and ill-equipped. They lacked the training essential for consistent success on the battlefield. On June 19, 1778, after an arduous six-month encampment, the army emerged to pursue and successfully engage Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's troops at the Battle of Monmouth. The ordered ranks, martial appearance, revived spirit, and fighting skill of the American soldiers spoke of a great transformation having occurred amidst the cold, sickness, and hardship that was Valley Forge. While the battle at Monmouth ended in a stalemate when the British army sneaked off under cover of darkness to Sandy Hook, where it had ships waiting, it still proved to be a turning point for the Patriot cause. Today, Monmouth Battlefield State Park honors and interprets this important site where American troops first proved themselves a fighting force equal to the enemy.

Washington and the eleven brigades of the Continental forces, numbering about 10,000 troops returned to Morristown and vicinity in January 1780, where they spent perhaps the coldest winter ever recorded. Troops built 1200 log huts for shelter in an area outside town known as Jockey Hollow. Lack of food and adequate clothing, added to the extreme cold, caused rumblings and mutinies among the troops. Joseph Plumb, a private at the time, wrote in his journal, "I saw several men roast their old shoes and eat them." [Morristown National Historical Park](#) links all these stories so visitors can see firsthand the events that shaped the Revolution from Morristown.

Washington had other strategies in mind when he camped in Morristown. War production was one of them. From this vantage point Washington was also able to defend the iron industry in the highlands to the north and west, which produced crucial munitions and other goods for the Continental Army. Today, the restored iron works, including the furnaces at Long Pond Iron Works in Ringwood, Passiac County and Oxford Furnace in Warren County, explain the critical importance of iron before, during, and after the war.

After Monmouth, the main theater of war moved to the south. But not all New Jersey residents favored the Patriot cause and many inhabitants endured conditions that resembled a civil war. From their base in New York City, the British supported the counter-revolutionary activities of the large loyalist population concentrated in northeastern New Jersey. Partisan warfare racked Monmouth and Bergen counties in particular, but skirmishing was statewide. Today the Proprietary House in Perth Amboy and the Vought House in Clinton are two of the sites that represent the points of view of those who remained loyal to their king.

In late 1783, the Continental Congress was meeting at Nassau Hall in Princeton (having fled a disruptive group of unpaid soldiers in Philadelphia) when news reached it of the treaty that formally ended the war. General Washington was based at nearby Rockingham, his last wartime headquarters. New Jersey had been the scene of five major battles and hundreds of minor encounters. Washington's main army spent three of its five winters and, all-told, roughly a quarter of the war in the state. New Jersey faced the end of the conflict with a debt-laden economy, a war-ravaged countryside, and a tattered social fabric. In the hope that a stronger central government than provided by the Articles of Confederation would hasten recovery, New Jersey was quick to ratify both the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Today, the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area showcases these and many other historic sites in New Jersey that tell the myriad stories of New Jersey's role in the war for independence.

### **New Jersey and National Expansion**

The next two wars did not much involve New Jersey, although they profoundly shaped the young nation's history. None of the War of 1812's principal theaters threatened the state directly. But, fearing the possibility of British landings, the state legislature authorized fortifications at several points along the coast, most notably at Paulus Hook in Jersey City. All told, roughly 6000 Jerseymen served during the conflict, mostly in the militia, but they saw little action. During the War of 1812, however, Captain James Lawrence (namesake of both Lawrenceville and Lawrence Township) gave the Navy its battle cry, "Don't give up the ship," when the vessel he commanded was shot to pieces (and Lawrence was killed) by a British

warship in Boston harbor. His birthplace in Burlington is open to visitors under the auspices of the Burlington County Historical Society.

Because the conclusion to the war in 1815 ended the threat of military conflict with Great Britain, it is sometimes called the second war for independence. The fledgling republic – which had doubled in size in 1803 with purchase of the Louisiana Territory – was then free to devote its energies to expanding to the west. It faced two obstacles to fulfilling what many believed was its God-given “Manifest Destiny” to expand across the entire continent: Native Americans, against whom continual warfare was waged throughout the nineteenth century, and Mexico, which broke free of Spain in 1821, and against whom the United States waged war from 1845 to 1848. Five New Jersey companies served in the Mexican War at Veracruz and Matamoros, Mexico. Two military leaders from New Jersey played a role in the war; General Stephen W. Kearny, a native of Newark, led a column through New Mexico and onto southern California, and Commodore Robert F. Stockton led the naval forces that held Monterey and San Francisco. A Princetonian, and president of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company, Stockton is closely associated with the Morven Museum and Garden, a Stockton family home.

The Mexican War ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. As a result of the treaty, the United States acquired more than 500,000 square miles of valuable territory, making it nearly a quarter larger than before the war. The question of whether to allow slavery into the land taken from Mexico sparked a national debate, in which New Jerseyans took both sides.

Slavery had long been a contentious issue. New Jersey was the last state in the north to abolish slavery. A gradual abolition process begun by an 1804 law moved slowly. There were nearly 700 slaves recorded in the 1840 census, for example. Opponents of slavery, too, were active in New Jersey before the Mexican War. Quaker abolitionists in Camden County purchased land in 1840 for a community they called Free Haven, where escaped and manumitted slaves and other African-Americans could live safely. It is now the Borough of Lawnside, one of only a few historically-black, self-governing towns in the United States. The 1845 home of Peter Mott, an African-Methodist-Episcopal minister, was a way station on

the Underground Railroad, through which escaping slaves made their way to freedom. Today, the home is restored and open to visitors.

Soon after Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States on a platform that called for banning slavery in western territories, the southern slaveholders rebelled, claiming it was the states' and territories' right to determine whether slavery would be expanded. Eleven southern states seceded. New Jersey's robust response – it sent four regiments to Lincoln's first call for militia – foretold its behavior throughout the war. Most New Jerseyans supported Lincoln's efforts to restore the Union, despite much extreme rhetoric, particularly around elections. Many, though, demurred in late 1862 when he broadened the war's aims to include ending slavery altogether.

Over 73, 000 men, a large majority of New Jersey's men of fighting-age served in the Civil War. Many served multiple tours of duty in one of the state's 45 units, some of which proudly called themselves "Jersey Blues." They fought primarily in the eastern theater – the effort to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. Additionally, nearly 3000 African-Americans from New Jersey served in the United States Colored Troops formed by other states in 1864-65. While their husbands, brothers, and fathers took up arms, women from New Jersey, as elsewhere, aided the war effort in a variety of ways, many taking on new duties at home once reserved for men. Some chose to serve more directly, as nurses serving the wounded in field hospitals. The most notable story of a woman from New Jersey is Civil War nurse Clara Barton, a former schoolteacher from Bordentown, who founded the American Red Cross. The Clara Barton School in Bordentown memorializes her contributions.

The state's manufacturing industries also supported the war effort. The John A. Roebling Sons Company in Trenton, for example, provided wire rope for the many military bridges designed by John's son Washington Roebling. As the country settled into a wartime economy, orders for Roebling's wire rope for both military and civilian projects grew in number and size. The Rogers Locomotive and Machine Works in Paterson built a locomotive called *The General*, which gained fame during the Civil War. In April, 1862, Union spies stole it in northern Georgia and drove it



north toward Chattanooga, Tennessee, *en route* doing as much damage as they could to Confederate rail lines.

In the end, the Civil War killed more Americans than all the nation's other wars combined, including over 6200 Jerseymen. Approximately twenty monuments throughout the state, from Sussex County to Cape May, honor their service. Most were built in the last decades of the nineteenth century by the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of Civil War veterans who fought for the union and made it their mission to memorialize the war and its fallen soldiers. And while Civil War veterans are buried in cemeteries around the state, the Finns Point National Cemetery near Fort Mott in Salem County is unique. It is the final resting place of over 2400 Confederate soldiers who died at a prisoner of war camp located on an island in Delaware Bay.

During the decades that followed the Civil War, industrial capitalism took command. It created a "Second Industrial Revolution," which wrought a remarkable, if uneven, transformation in the United States. By the turn of the twentieth century, the United States was the world's leading industrial power, with New Jersey one of its principal manufacturing centers.

### **New Jersey and the Struggle for Global Power**

Because American companies were doing ever more business globally, policy makers feared that international commercial rivalries might boil over. They expanded the Navy and modernized coastal defense. In 1890, Congress provided funding for dozens of shoreline forts, including the construction of Fort Mott on the Delaware River and upgrades to Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook. Fort Mott was disarmed in 1943, but Fort Hancock, guarding New York Harbor, continued to serve and became an anti-aircraft missile site during the Cold War.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 resulted in the seizure of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, the United States' first overseas colonies. The war lasted all of ten weeks, with decisive U. S. victories. The New Jersey National Guard mobilized during the war, though most units never deployed. Today, the Guard's role in this and other conflicts is preserved and honored at the National Guard Militia Museum in Sea Girt.

Compared to the millions of square miles that Great Britain, France, and Germany each appropriated in the late-nineteenth century, American colonies were minuscule. But their existence led to a vigorous national debate about the role of imperialism in a democracy. A proud son of Paterson, Garrett A. Hobart, the Vice President of the United States from 1897 until his sudden death in 1899, believed in exporting democracy and opening markets. In 1903, four years after his death, Paterson erected a statue of Hobart right in front of City Hall next to the statue of Alexander Hamilton, the city's founder, where it still stands today.

### ***World War I***

In mid-1914, the shaky balance of power among European empires collapsed and war erupted. The question of whether the United States should intervene in what became known as the "Great War" was complicated by differences over which side to take. In New Jersey, many immigrants from Ireland and Germany (and their children) supported the Central Powers alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary. Others favored the Entente (or Allied) Powers of Great Britain, France, Russia, and, later, Italy. At first, president, and former New Jersey governor, Woodrow Wilson tried to steer a neutral course. By late 1915, his administration had tipped to the Entente, and a military buildup was underway. Wilson campaigned for reelection in 1916 on the slogan, "He Kept Us Out of War," knowing that American entry was probably not far off. His request to Congress for a declaration of war "to make the world safe for democracy" came less than a month after his second inauguration.

Due to its strategic location and robust industries, the war's impact on New Jersey was huge. Industrial war production nearly quadrupled between 1914 and 1919. Middlesex County produced half the war's copper. Shipyards in Camden, Kearny, and elsewhere built or retrofitted thousands of warships and other vessels. Even the massive Singer Sewing Machine plant in Elizabeth converted to war production. Led by the DuPont Corporation and its spin-off, the Hercules Powder Company, New Jersey became the nation's largest munitions manufacturer. Southern New Jersey was dotted with explosives producers. In Mullica Township, for example, an entire company town of roughly 10,000 people sprouted up near an

ordnance plant, known as Amatol. Abandoned soon after the war ended, the site was later the location of the Atlantic City Speedway. As if the entire community vanished into thin air, a state police barracks is the only surviving building from the site.

The United States did not militarily enter the war until 1917, but German government saboteurs targeted U.S. war production before that. New Jersey's ammunition depots and factories were the scenes of several suspicious fires and explosions. The most notorious explosion took place on July 30, 1916, on a Hudson River pier in Jersey City known as "Black Tom." The explosion, which shattered windows for miles around and damaged the Statue of Liberty nearby, was the equivalent of an earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale. The blast awakened people as far away as Maryland and Connecticut.

On the military front, New Jersey was home to thirty-six military facilities, including the future forts Dix and Monmouth, which were training grounds. Fully a quarter of the 4-million some American troops sent to the war passed through Camp Merritt (named for a Civil War officer) in Bergen County. Even more men boarded troop transports in Hoboken, which gained fame when General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, referred to it. Convinced that the attack he was launching on German lines in France would prove decisive, as it did, Pershing predicted that departing troops would soon meet their destinies: "heaven, hell, or Hoboken." Between 1.5 and 3 million soldiers passed through Hoboken going to or coming from the front. Among them were approximately 130,000 New Jerseymen, most of whom were draftees. More than 3,400 never returned home, including poet ("I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.") Joyce Kilmer from New Brunswick. In honor of New Jersey's service in the war, nearly 60 World War I memorials are located around the state. The early monuments featured allegorical figures. By the mid-1920s, realistic likenesses of soldiers were popular, like the one in Cresskill at the center of the former Camp Merritt.

### ***World War II and the Cold War***

Questions of communism, fascism, war, and peace were hotly debated in the 1930s, as old passions revived in Europe. Most New Jerseyans agreed when President Franklin D. Roosevelt stayed neutral after Germany invaded Poland in

August 1939. When France fell ten months later, FDR began an effort to make the United States the “great arsenal of democracy,” and many New Jersey industries benefitted. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the German war declaration that followed erased most doubts about the necessity of fighting on foreign soil a second time.

New Jersey’s leading role in the war effort was once again due to its strategic location and manufacturing capacity. Industrial employment more than doubled during the war years to nearly a million workers, including tens of thousands of women who worked in factories that made aircraft engines and munitions, in shipyards that turned out aircraft carriers and battleships, and elsewhere. New Jersey produced extraordinary amounts and kinds of munitions and materiel, sometimes in unusual transformations. For example, the Maidenform factory in Bayonne, birthplace of the modern brassiere, re-tooled produced silk parachutes and even carrier pigeon vests.

All told, New Jersey fulfilled more than \$12 billion in war-related contracts (equivalent to over \$150 billion in 2014 dollars). Over 60 New Jersey manufacturers were awarded the Army-Navy E Award, which went to only five percent of plants nationwide for excellence in war production, including the John A. Roebling Sons Company, the same company that had supplied the Union cause during the Civil War.

The state was also an important staging and training ground. After Congress enacted the nation’s first peacetime draft in 1940, [Fort Dix](#) was reactivated. By war’s end, roughly 1.3 million men had trained there. The army built its main embarkation post in Middlesex County. Camp Kilmer sent approximately 2.3 million men to the European front. Pilots trained at the [Naval Air Station](#) near Wildwood, and at the [Army Air Field](#) in Millville.

The threat of an actual invasion was never serious, but New Jersey’s lengthy coastline brought the war home nonetheless. Shipping along the entire east coast, including New Jersey, was targeted by German submarines. [Fort Hancock](#) installed artillery batteries, and the Coast Guard supervised foot patrols to prevent landings by saboteurs. Fort Miles around Delaware Bay included fourteen fire towers

stretching from North Wildwood to Bethany Beach in Delaware. Their task was to help aim batteries of coastal artillery. Four were located in Cape May County. [Fire Control Tower #23](#) is the only remaining example.

The men and, for the first time, women of New Jersey served in the armed services in very large numbers. Over 560,000 state residents wore uniforms during the war. They served on every front, in every battle on land and sea. At least 10,000 New Jersey women served in the Women's Army Corps or the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, known as the WACS and WAVES respectively. Over 13,000 New Jerseyans died in the war.

When the Second World War ended in 1945, the Soviet Union occupied Eastern Europe, and the U.S. soon decided on a policy of containing its former ally. After the Soviets exploded an atomic bomb in 1949, and communist forces conquered China, the United States launched a global campaign against communism. The rearmament campaign that followed had a large influence in New Jersey. Defense contractors saw their orders increase, and the state's military installations received important missions. [Fort Dix](#) became one of the Army's largest basic-training posts, while adjacent [McGuire Air Force Base](#) grew to be the largest military airport in the world. Fort Monmouth and its sub-post [Camp Evans](#) and the Picatinny Arsenal were both fertile research facilities. Camp Evans is especially noteworthy for its long history in communications and defense research. It was once the 1914 Marconi Belmar Trans-Atlantic Wireless station, opened world-wide wireless communications, played an important role in WWI trans-Atlantic communications, played a key role the development of radar as an effective WWII secret weapon, opened space communications in 1946, was a cold war technology site and nuclear weapons research site. Today, the National Historic Landmark site is home to Info-Age, dedicated to telling the story of the men and women who made all the advancements there possible.

The Cold War turned hot in 1950 when North Korean troops invaded U.S.-aligned South Korea. President Harry S. Truman promptly committed American troops, who were still stationed in Japan following the end of World War II. After

three years of fierce fighting involving over 2 million Americans, including roughly 190,000 New Jerseymen, of whom over 800 died, the war ended inconclusively.

The United States began fearing a Russian attack after the Soviet Union developed jet airplanes that could reach North America without refueling. Citizens built bomb shelters, and air-raid drills, in which elementary-school students hid under their desks, became a common practice. In 1953, the government installed anti-aircraft missiles in protective circles around major cities, including New York and Philadelphia. Nike missiles were located in roughly fifteen New Jersey locations in close proximity to both cities. Both regular army and New Jersey reserve units staffed these installations. Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook continued its role as strategic defender of New York Harbor as one of the Nike missile sites and now interprets the story of New Jersey's nuclear defense system. But these defenses were not without accidents. In 1958, at the Nike base in Middletown/Leonardo, a missile inadvertently detonated, killing ten. And in 1960, an Air Force's BOMARC missile caught fire at Lakehurst Naval Air Station in Ocean County, releasing plutonium into the air. Remediation still continues today.

A second involvement in the affairs of a divided Asian nation, which had been quietly underway in the 1950s, grew in the 1960s. As the war there in Vietnam intensified, a brief thaw in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States played out in Glassboro in June 1967, when Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin and President Lyndon B. Johnson sat down for three days of talks at Hollybush Mansion, home of the president of what is now Rowan University. It produced no breakthroughs, and ultimately the Vietnam War became the longest in American history until the war in Afghanistan outdistanced it in 2014. In all, the Vietnam War took over 58,000 American lives, 1,482 of those from New Jersey.

New Jerseyans were deeply divided. The state's military installations were in high gear, but as the war dragged on and the body count climbed, the anti-war movement gained strength around the state. Reconciliation after the war's end in 1975 came slowly. New Jersey began planning for a [Vietnam War Memorial](#) in Holmdel after the national memorial debuted in 1982. It opened officially in May 1995, on the twentieth anniversary of the war's end.

### ***The Turn of the Century and the Mid-East Conflicts***

The United States' attention pivoted from Asia to the Mid-East beginning in the 1980s. During the First Gulf War in 1990-91, three National Guard units from New Jersey played key roles in the air war. General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, a Trenton native, led the coalition forces.

Ten years later, the unprecedented attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 killed over 700 New Jerseyans. Memorials around the state, including the one at Liberty State Park entitled "Empty Sky," remember their loss. Following the attack, President George W. Bush announced a "global war on terrorism," and launched wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Thousands of New Jerseyans enlisted and many National Guard units deployed, some for multiple tours. Former Governor of New Jersey, Thomas H. Kean, took on the challenge of investigating the causes of the attack and providing guidance for moving forward by co-chairing the September 11 Commission. The report called for "a balanced strategy...to attack terrorists and prevent their ranks from swelling while at the same time protecting our country against future attacks." Efforts to seek that balanced strategy continue today.

The question of how we wage war or seek peace is perhaps the most crucial one a nation faces. The New Jersey [historic sites and landscapes](#) that preserve and interpret the history of conflict- the reasons and strategies, tensions and resolutions, innovation, sacrifice, love of country and cause – offer a multitude of opportunities for visitors to experience firsthand the momentous meaning of waging war.

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