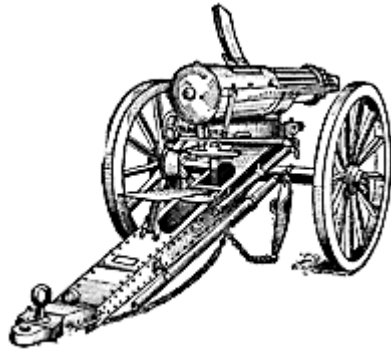


CIVIL WAR FIRSTS

Military

▪ On the land

- **The Gatling Gun** – invented by Dr. Richard Gatling, the Gatling gun operated by turning a hand-crank to rotate six gun barrels around a central shaft, each barrel firing 100 rounds per minute



- **Land-mines** – highly explosive bombs placed under dirt or brush and exploded by contact (first used at the Battle of Yorktown by Confederate General Gabriel Raines' troops)
- **Repeating rifles** – designed – and improved – by Christopher Spencer in 1860 to accommodate rapid re-loading of a lever-operated rifle
- **Long-range rifles** – a rifle-musket designed to make accuracy from a distance possible; the invention of rifling (grooves incised within the barrel) allowed bullets to spin and to reach targets up to 900 feet away.



- **The mini bullet** – ammunition that spun even faster in the new grooved (rifled) gun barrels; it led to far greater accuracy at distances up to half a mile
- **Telescopic sights** – used primarily by snipers
- **Dog tags** – created by manufacturers who discovered that soldiers used everything from a piece of paper pinned to their uniforms to identifying information scratched into a rifle butt

▪ On the water

- **Ironclads** – steam-powered warships covered with iron or steel plating first built by the French in the 1850s but never used in battle until the American Civil War

- **Submarine** – not true submarines – except for the *Hunley* which destroyed both its target and its crew, these ships were generally ironclads with all but their smokestacks (they were steam-powered) and breathing tube projected above the surface of the water
 - **Torpedoes** – a contact mine that floated on or below the surface of the water by means of a flotation device – sometimes moored to the river or sea bottom and were detonated on contact with a ship (primarily used by the Confederacy)
 - **Electrically exploded bombs** – some torpedoes could be detonated from on shore by the application of direct current instead of contact, allowing some level of choice regarding targets
- **In the air**



The Civil War Balloon *Intrepid*. US Centennial of Flight Commission. [Born of Dreams – Inspired by Freedom. <http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Lighter_than_air/Civil_War_balloons/LTA5.htm>](http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Lighter_than_air/Civil_War_balloons/LTA5.htm)

- **Aerial reconnaissance** – hydrogen balloons were used by the Union during the war; Thaddeus Lowe demonstrated the possibilities – including telegraphy from aloft – with his prototype, the *Enterprise*, and inspired President Lincoln to authorize a civilian Balloon Corps. The Confederacy employed hot air balloons.
- **“Taps”** – created during the Peninsular Campaign (1862) by Union General Daniel Butterfield and bugler Oliver W. Norton

Support

- **Army ambulance corps** – Jonathan Letterman, medical director of the Army of the Potomac, designed a system for removing wounded soldiers from the battlefield that assigned two stretcher-bearers and one driver to an ambulance (more like a covered wagon) <http://www.civilwarhome.com/ambulancecorps.html>
- **Nursing corps** – Secretary of War Simon Cameron appointed Dorothea Dix Superintendent of Women Nurses for the Union Army. For the first time in American history women – not just men – served as nurses. By some accounts at least 108 African American nurses served the corps.

Ranks and Awards

- **African-American field officer** – Martin Robinson Delaney (1812-1885) was commissioned a major and served under General Rufus Saxton in the 52nd US Colored Troops
- **Rear admiral** – created as a reward for David Farragut after he took New Orleans

- **Vice admiral** – created as a reward for David Farragut after he cut off Mobile Bay
- **Admiral** – awarded to David Farragut in July of 1866
- **Medal of Honor** – On December 21, 1861, Lincoln authorized the Navy Medal of Honor specifically for sailors and marines as the First American military medal

The Medal of Honor of today was created by Congress on July 12, 1862; it is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. It is presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress.

Though he did not receive the medal until 1894, Bernard J. D. Irwin is listed as the first recipient for his rescue of Lt. George Bascom and his 60 men in the Arizona Territory in 1861

William Carney of the Massachusetts 54th is first black recipient (awarded in 1900). He rescued the flag during the ill-fated fighting at Fort Wagner

Laws and Taxes

- **The draft** – In March 1863, Congress authorized President Lincoln to require draft registration by all able-bodied men between the ages of twenty and forty-five, regardless of their marital status or profession. (Payment of a \$300 fee, a man may purchase an exemption.) The move was controversial and led to the New York draft riots of July 1863.

The Confederacy initiated their own draft in April 1862, requiring three years of military service of all white men between 18 and 35, excepting those legally exempted. Later, the age limit for draftees is changed to a span from 17 to 50. Conscription is equally unpopular in the Confederacy.

- **Income tax** – a graduated tax that used the withholding system for collection and required a Commissioner of Internal Revenue (The Supreme Court ruled the income tax unconstitutional in 1895, but the Sixteenth Amendment in 1913 restored it.)
- **Tobacco tax** – the tax was levied in 1864 to help pay the war and became a mainstay of federal revenue from that point forward