



US Army Garrison – Rock Island Arsenal Installation Overview

Mr. Joel Himsl

***Our mission is to provide Soldiers, Civilians and their Families with a
quality of life commensurate with the quality of their service.***

We are the Army's Home





ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



FORT ARMSTRONG – ESTABLISHED 1816



Davenport

*Fort Armstrong,
Residence of Arthur LeClair,
taken from the Steamer
Uncle Toby*

Uncle
Toby



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



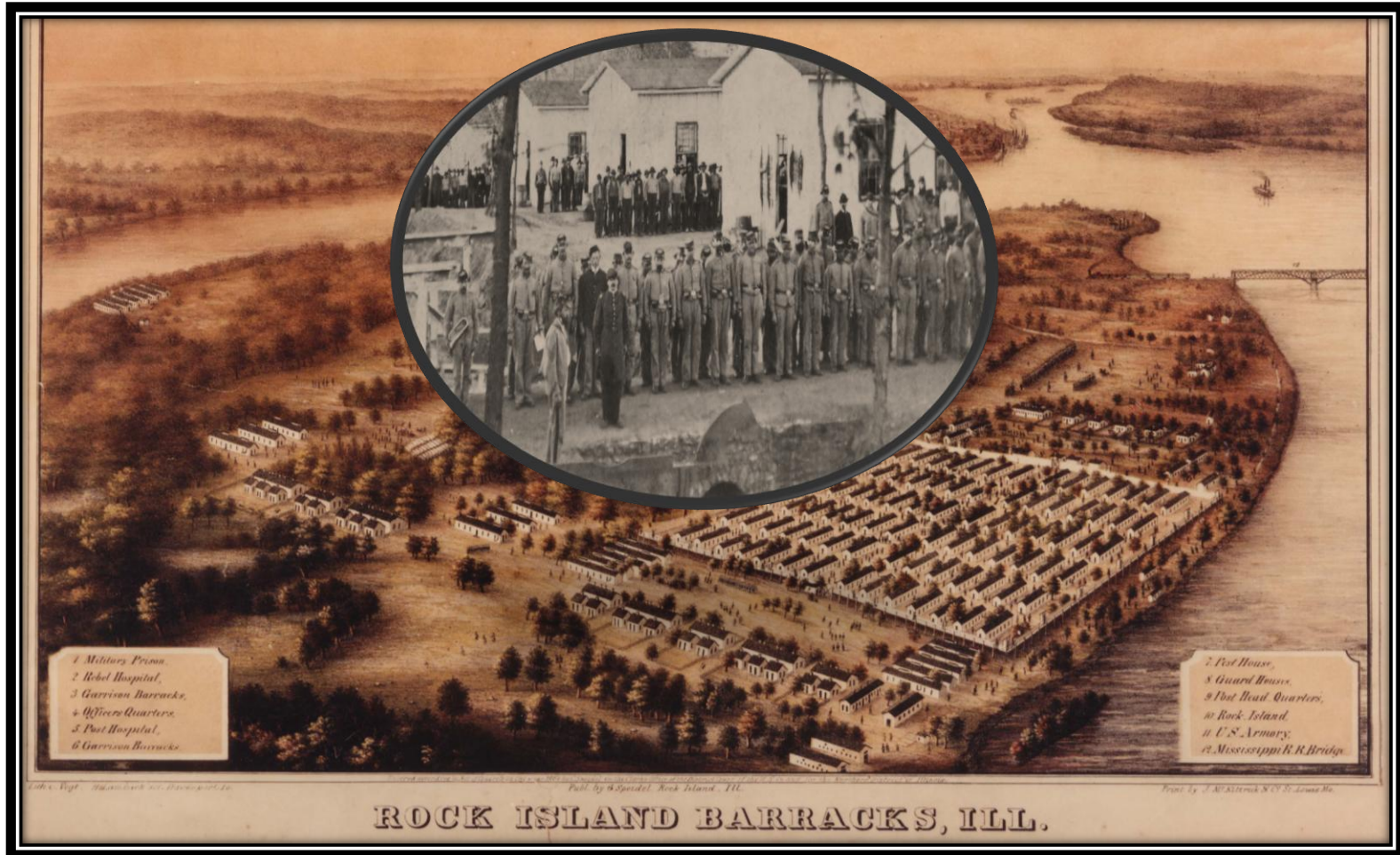
In 1837, Lieutenant Robert E. Lee, led the second survey of the upper Mississippi River rapids, including the Rock Island rapids.



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



1863 TO 1865 -- UNION PRISONER OF WAR CAMP



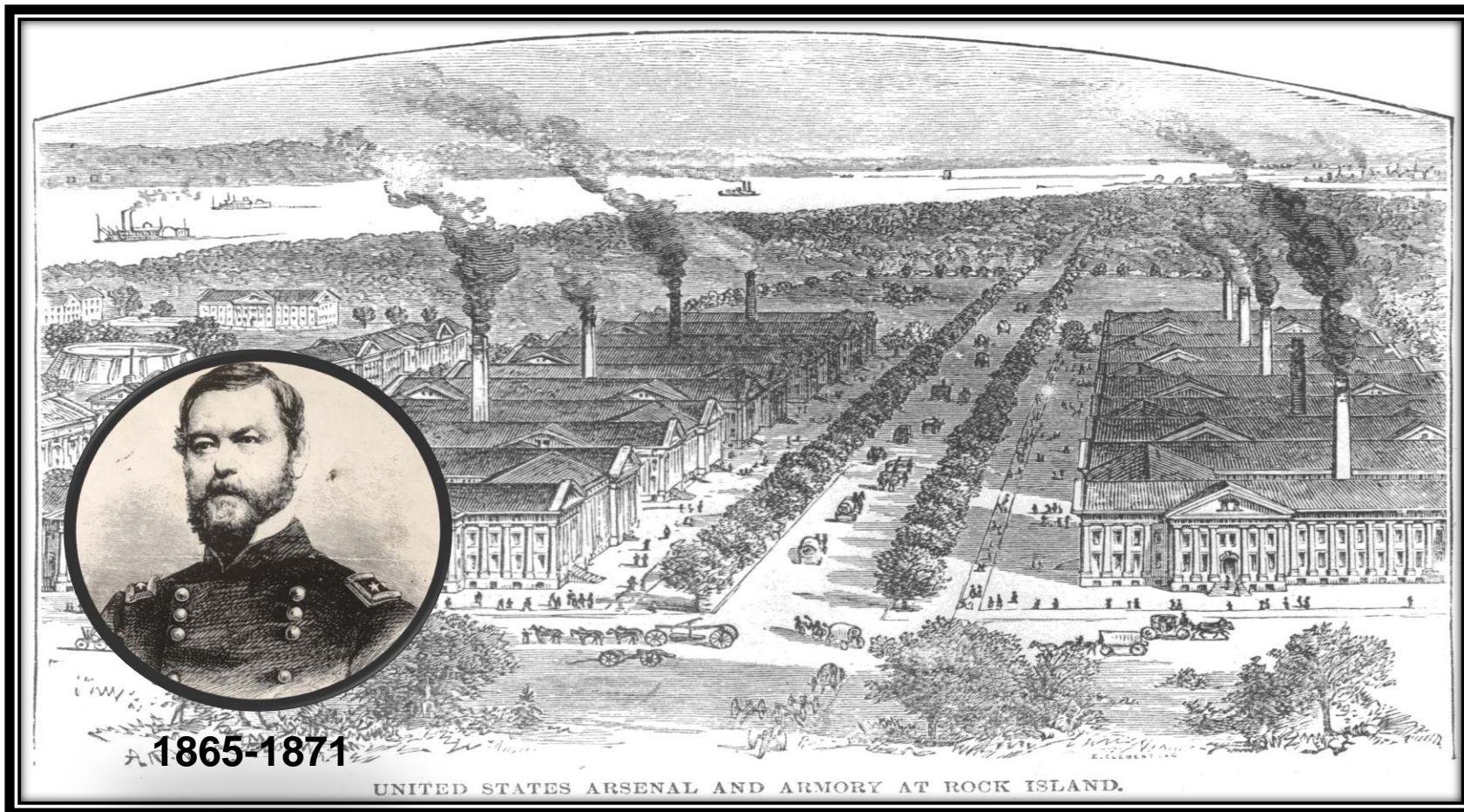
- From December 1863 to July 1865, the barracks held 12,192 prisoners
- Confederate Cemetery = 1,964 Confederate Soldier & 125 Union Guard gravesites



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



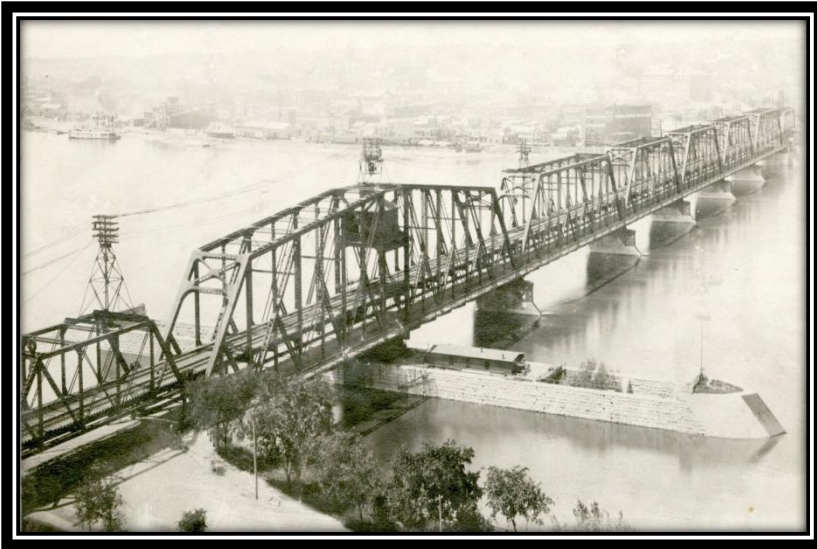
1866 TO 1894 -- STONE BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED



Brevet Brigadier General Thomas J. Rodman, Commanding Officer of Rock Island Arsenal, designed the Arsenal plan. Recognized as the “Father of Rock Island Arsenal.”



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



- **April 22, 1856 - First railroad bridge across Mississippi River opens to Davenport, IA**
- **Built by Mississippi & Missouri Bridge Company**
- **May 6, 1856, the steamer "Effie Afton" collides with the wooden bridge, setting it afire**
- **Abraham Lincoln, represented the railroad interests in the law suit between the railroad and the steamboat owners**
- **Current Government Bridge built in 1896**

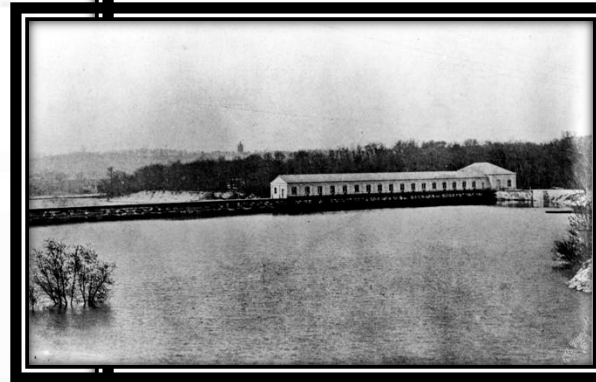
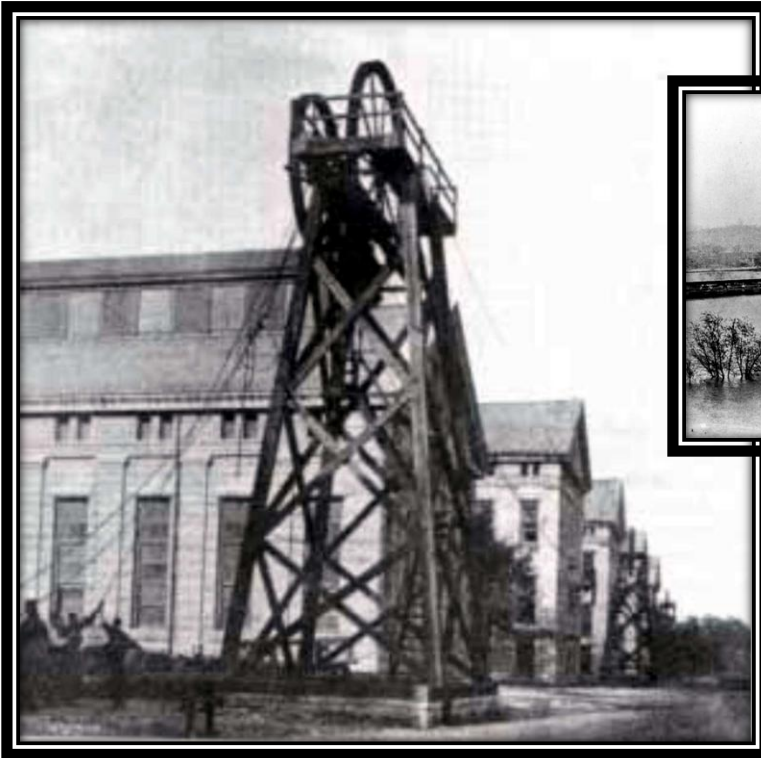




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TELODYNAMIC HYDRO POWER PLANT



- 1879 – Telodynamic Hydro Power Plant
- Wire-cable power transmission



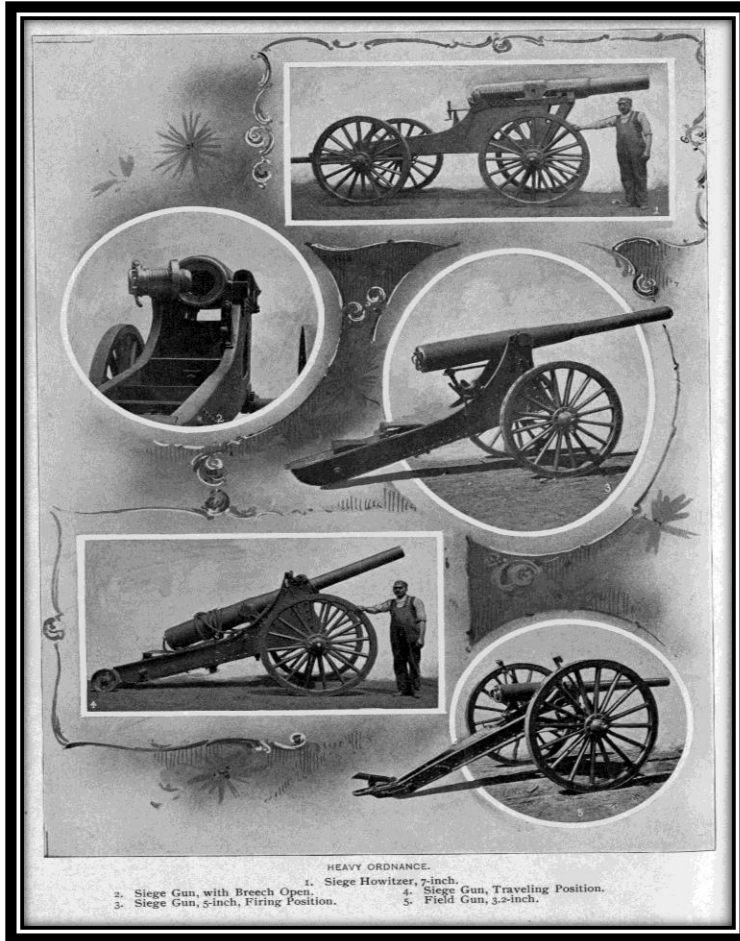
- Current Hydro-electric Plant, circa 1919



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



EARLY PRODUCTION AT ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



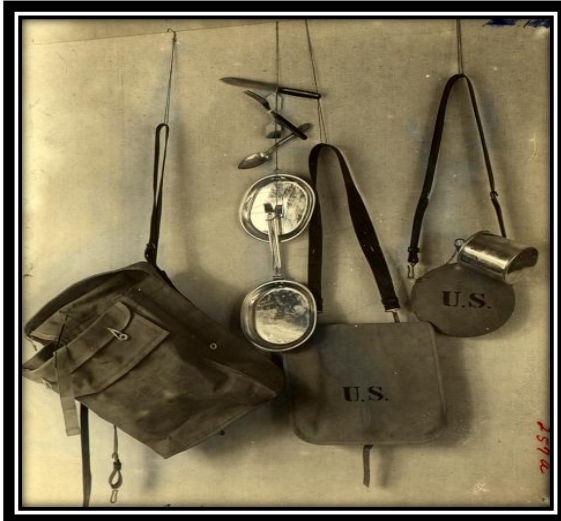
- Siege guns were considered the heavy ordnance
- Field guns were mobile weapons with gun carriages



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SPANISH AMERICAN WAR



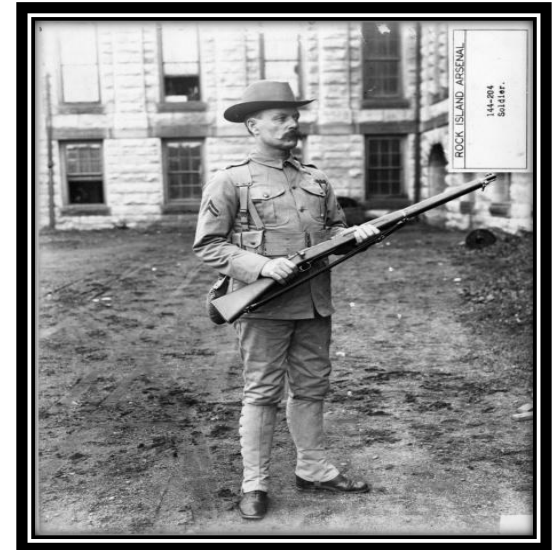
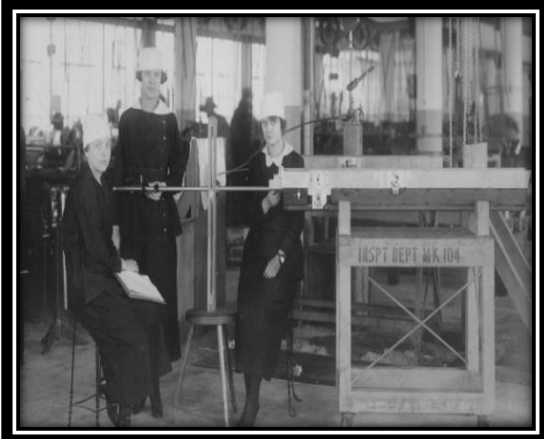
- Produced a variety of items to include mess kits, canteens, canteen covers, haversacks, pack carriers, tin cups, eating utensils, gun slings, saddles & saddle blankets . . .
- Expended over \$2.6M in production
- Produced 6K infantry equipment outfits every day



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WORLD WAR I



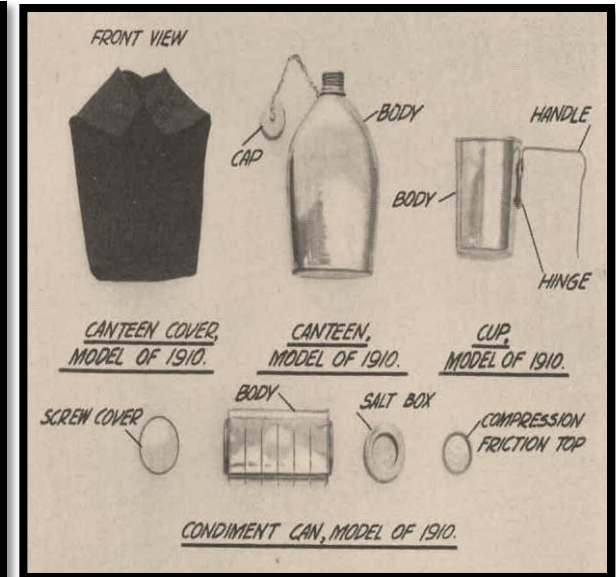
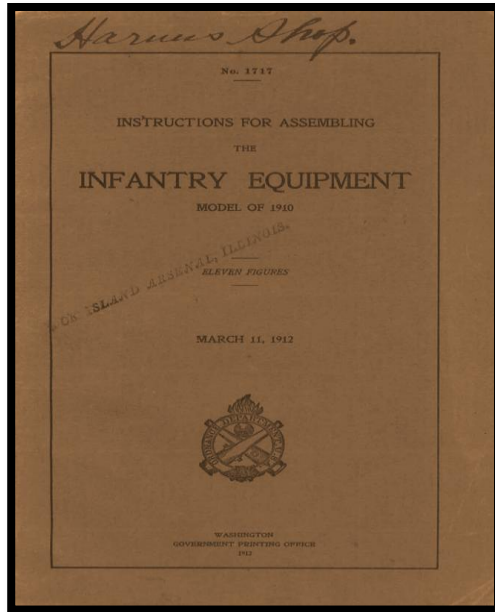
- 20K different items were manufactured to include the Model 1903 Springfield Rifle, Infantry Equipment, Harnesses & Artillery
- Peak employment = 13,400
- Women shop workers for the first time = 8% of workforce



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INFANTRY EQUIPMENT PRODUCTION DURING WORLD WAR I



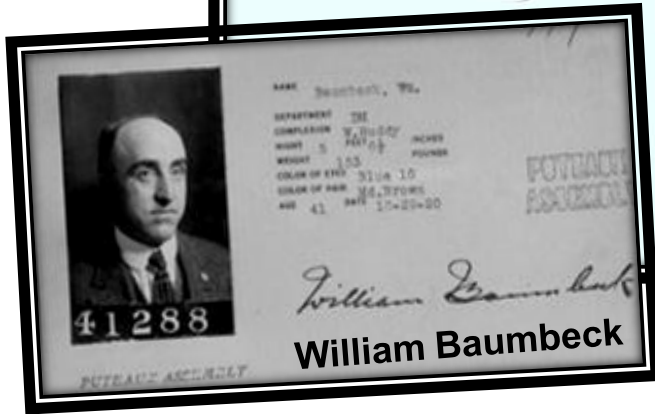
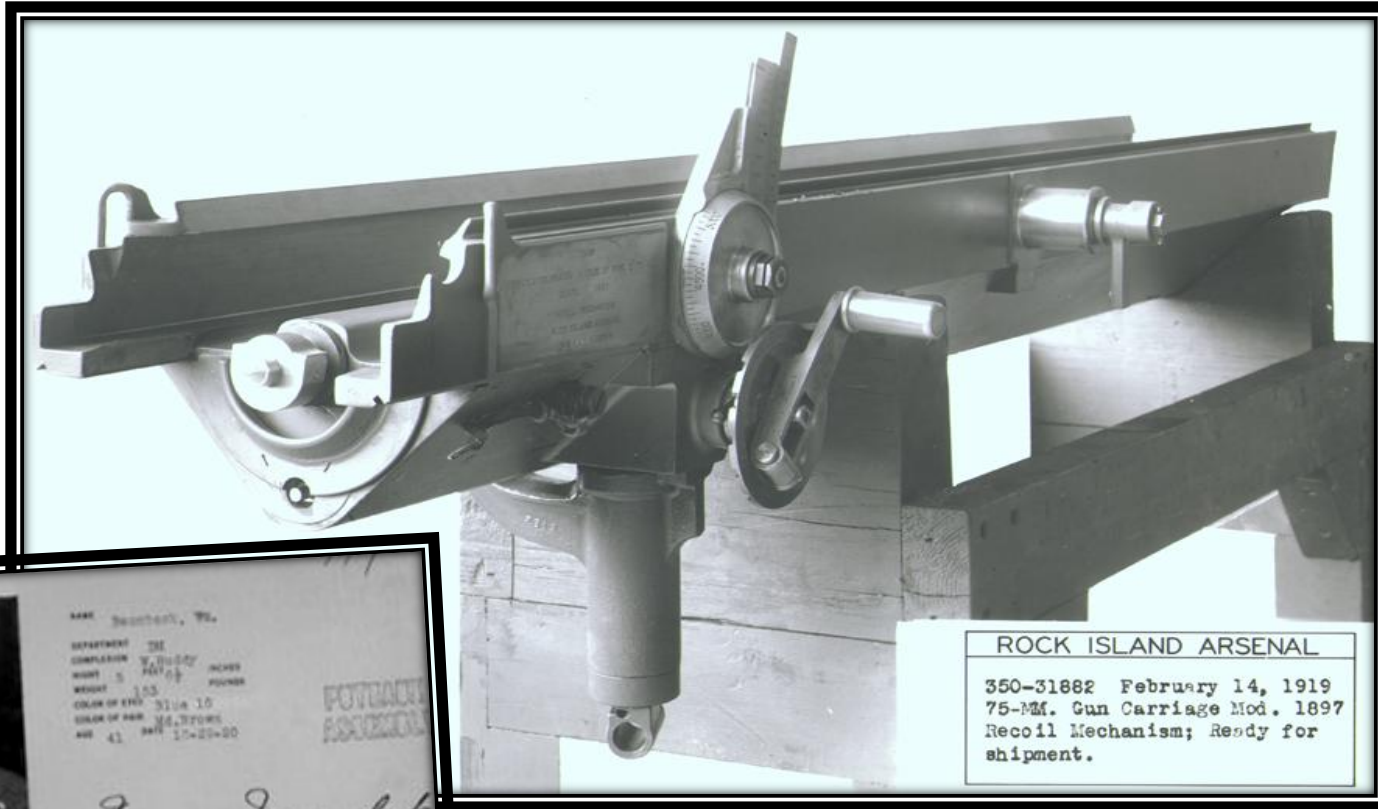
- A board of six Officers, appointed by the Chief of Staff, were stationed at RIA to study equipment carried by US Soldiers & Soldiers from 12 foreign countries
 - Determined what the Infantry Soldier should carry & the design of equipment
 - The design of the Model 1910 canteen used by the Doughboys is still used today



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RECOIL PRODUCTION BEGAN DURING WORLD WAR I



NAME Baumbek, Wl.
DEPARTMENT 281
COMPLERON V. Duddy
WEIGHT 5 11/16 INCHES
WEIGHT 153 POUNDS
COLOR OF EYES Blue 10
COLOR OF HAIR Hd. Brown
AGE 41 DATE 12-25-20

FOURTH
ASSISTANT

William Baumbek
William Baumbek

41288

FOURTH ASSISTANT

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

350-31882 February 14, 1919
75-MM. Gun Carriage Mod. 1897
Recoil Mechanism; Ready for
shipment.

- RIA developed & produced the recoil mechanism for the French 75 Field Gun
- Sole peacetime producer of the precision mechanism



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



PRODUCTION BETWEEN WW I & WW II



- The War Department allocated manufacturing responsibility to selected production facilities
- Rock Island Arsenal received the mission for tanks, artillery and machine guns



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PRODUCTION DURING WORLD WAR II



- **Manufactured 85K .30 caliber machine guns**
- **Peak employment = 18,467**
- **Women comprised 32% of the workforce**



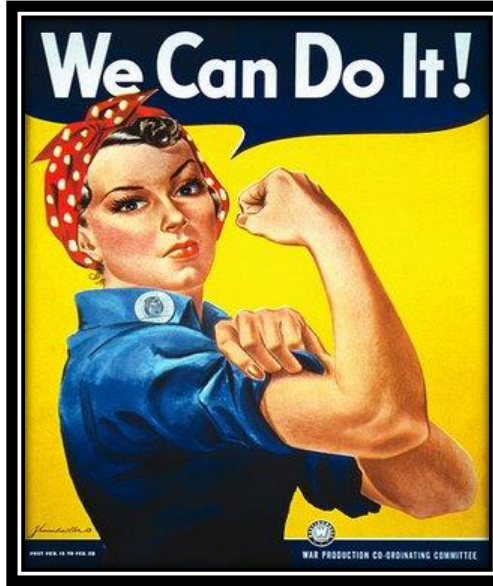
- **Developed & produced corrugated iron containers, designed to airdrop ammunition and equipment to troops behind enemy lines**
- **The 75mm-pack howitzer used eleven iron containers**



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PRODUCTION DURING WORLD WAR II



- Produced 193M metallic, disintegrating belt links for both .30 & .50 caliber machine guns
- Women are seen inspecting the belt links as they are packaged for shipping



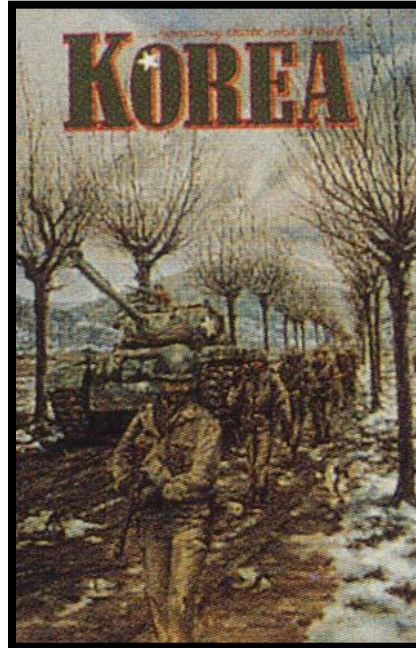
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KOREAN WAR



Super Bazooka
M20 3.5 in Rocket Launcher



Browning .30 Cal Machine Gun



- RIAs most publicized contribution was the rocket launcher or “Super Bazooka”
- The first shipment left the Quad Cities 13 days after US troops were ordered to battle



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



COLD WAR RENOVATION OF ARMAMENT MANUFACTURING (REARM)



- Experimented in the areas of tank systems, artillery systems, science & technology, aircraft weapons and small arms systems



- 1962 - The mission for tool and equipment sets distribution was transferred to Rock Island Arsenal
- Stocked & fielded 65K different items, including hand tools, band saws and grinding machines
- 1973-1977 Thomas J. Rodman Laboratory R&D efforts included improving performance of the M16A1 rifle & converting the M109 155mm self-propelled howitzer to the longer-barreled M109A1

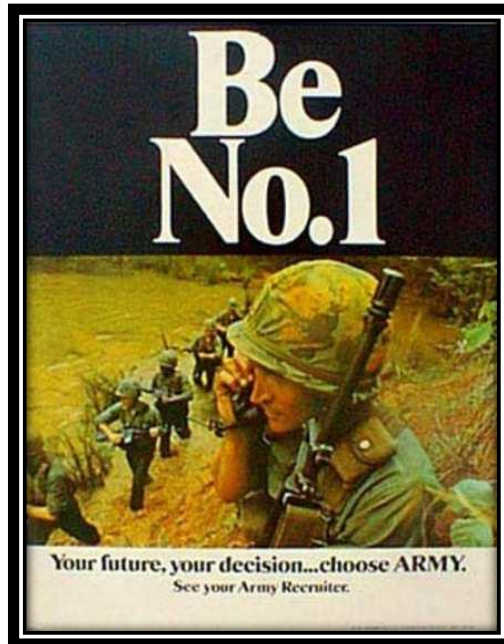




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VIETNAM CONFLICT



- **Manufactured the M102 105mm lightweight & airmobile howitzer**
- **Small Arms mission transferred to RIA in 1967**
- **Modified Jeeps as ambulances and for the 106mm recoilless rifle**
- **Fitted mobile maintenance units with shop sets for artillery & small arm repair**



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



AUG 1990 – FEB 1991 - OPERATION DESERT SHIELD - DESERT STORM



- 1980's - improved the Kingsbury Manufacturing Complex with state-of-art numerically controlled machines
- Provided quick manufacturing & logistical support
- DOD's only in-house forge, foundry & plating shop



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OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM/OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM



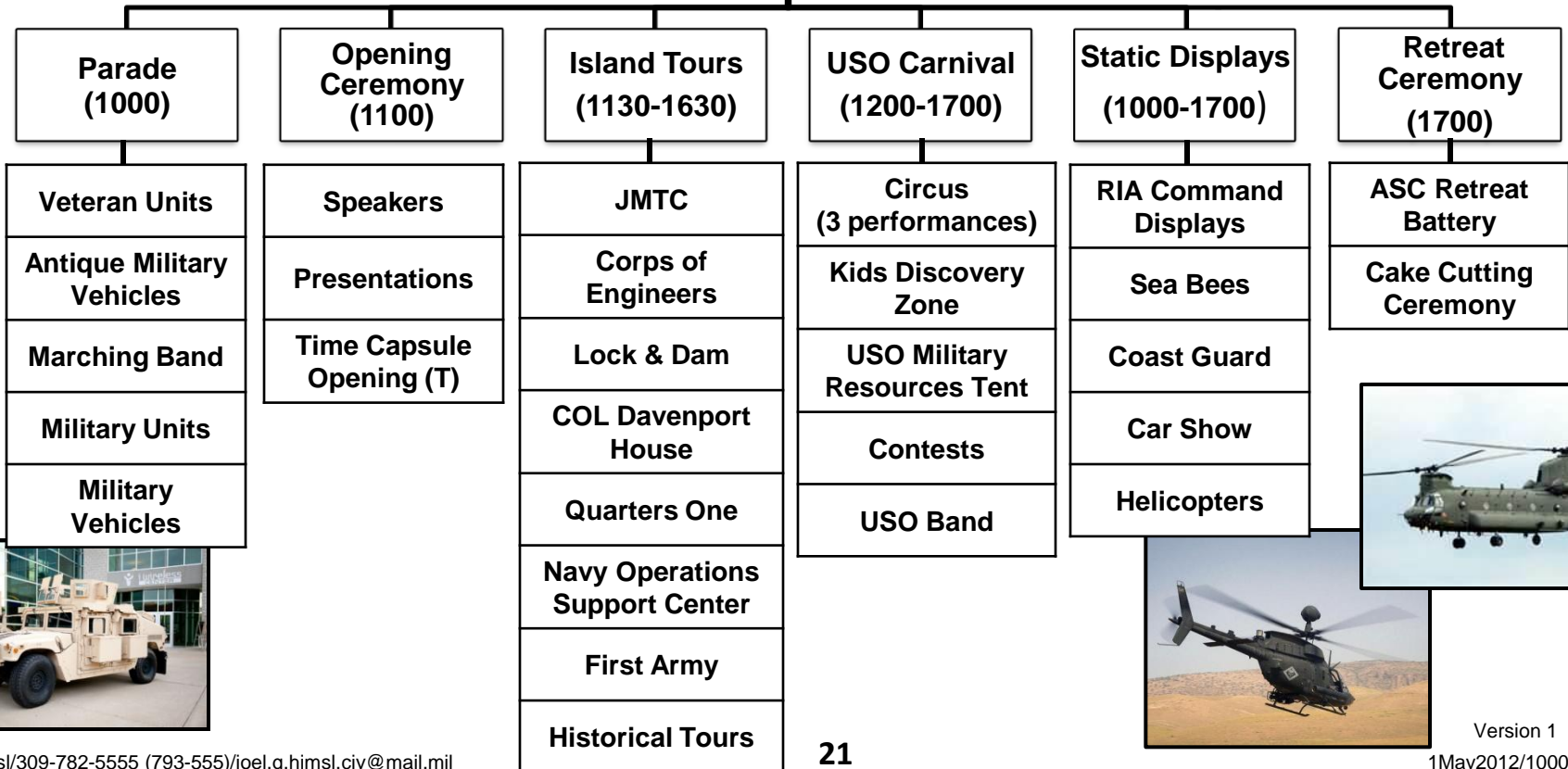
- Four product lines = Artillery, Armor Kits, Mobile Maintenance Kits and Small Arms Parts & Gauges



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SATURDAY, 7 JULY 2012





ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND



IMCOM
SOLDIERS • FAMILIES • CIVILIANS

“Sustain, Support and Defend”