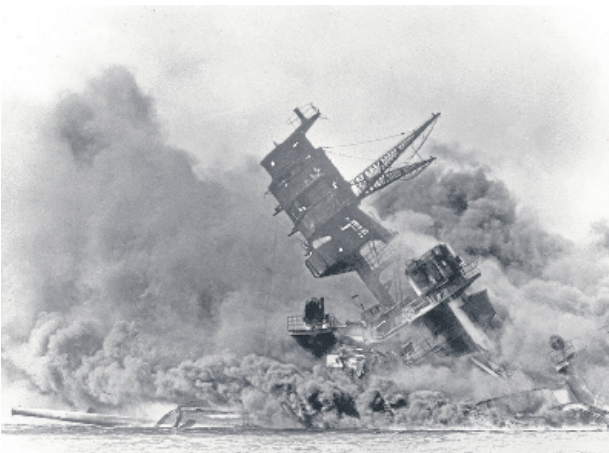




File, AP

In this Jan. 28, photo, file photo the space shuttle Challenger is destroyed by an explosion shortly after it lifted off from Kennedy Space Center, Florida. The accident killed all seven crew members, including teacher Christa McAuliffe.



File, AP

In this Dec. 7, 1941, file photo, smoke rises from the battleship USS Arizona as it sinks during a Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.



File, AP

Workmen load fuel aboard “The Spirit of St. Louis” at Curtiss Field in Long Island, New York, before towing the plane to Roosevelt Field on May 20, 1927. Later Charles A. Lindbergh started his flight to Paris to become the first to complete a nonstop transcontinental flight.



File, AP

In this photo provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, a U.S. Coast Guard landing barge, tightly packed with helmeted soldiers, approaches the shore at Normandy, France, during initial Allied landing operations, June 6, 1944. These barges rode back and forth across the English Channel, bringing wave after wave of reinforcement troops to the Allied beachheads.

16 pages right out of history

History is written in blood, it has been said. Perhaps it's more true to say tears. Often it's tears of pain and grief, but sometimes joy and triumph.

As you peruse these historic front pages from The Times' 110-year history, you'll see reminders that the United States has often gone to war, and that the end of war is equally celebrated.



DOUG ROSS

Our project was to choose 16 front pages, in honor of Indiana's 2016 bicentennial, that hit the highlights of history in that time. It's a lot easier said than done.

Flip through the pages of The Times, and you're flipping through the pages of history. A quick glance at January 1935 microfilm images, for example, showed two major events unfolding — the Bruno Hauptmann trial (he was charged with kidnapping Charles Lindbergh's baby) and the trial of a John Dillinger accomplice.

Looking for The Times' coverage of the moon landing in July 1969, we found a story about Ted Kennedy and Mary Jo Kopechne's July 18, 1969, accident at Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts. Both historic events happened at almost the same time.

There is much history you won't read about in this special section. For all the headlines that reference wars, you won't find when the United States went to war in Korea and Vietnam, nor smaller engagements in Grenada, Bosnia, Lebanon and elsewhere. Leaving material on the cutting floor is painful.

But you will see stories about when the United States entered World War I and World War II, and when those wars ended. You'll see how the election of Richard Hatcher as the first African-American mayor of Gary was covered, as well as the inauguration of the nation's first African-American president. You'll relive — if you were around at the time — the collapse of the Cline Avenue bridge, the worst construction accident in Indiana history.

You'll experience again the triumph of American astronaut Neil Armstrong setting foot on the moon, something only a dozen humans have ever done.

And you'll see once again the page that told the Region of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, when the nation plunged into mourning for the end of the Camelot era and its American hero.

Treat this special section as a keepsake, passing it down to future generations. Whet their appetite for history. And sate your own appetite at nwi.com/history, where you'll find a growing treasure trove of material about Indiana history, and Northwest Indiana in particular.

If you have something to share for that site — whether a story, a postcard or photos — please contact me. I'd love to hear from you. Call me at (219) 548-4360 or, even better, write me at doug.ross@nwi.com or 601 W. 45th Ave., Munster, IN 46321.

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ABOVE: Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., eyes her shot of Crown Royal with Bronko's owner Nick Tarailo, right, as she stops at the bar during a campaign stop at Bronko's restaurant in Crown Point, in this April 12, 2008, file photo.



LEFT: American paratroopers, heavily armed, sit inside a military plane as they soar over the English Channel en route to the Normandy French coast for the Allied D-Day invasion of the German stronghold during World War II, June 6, 1944.

AP PHOTOS