



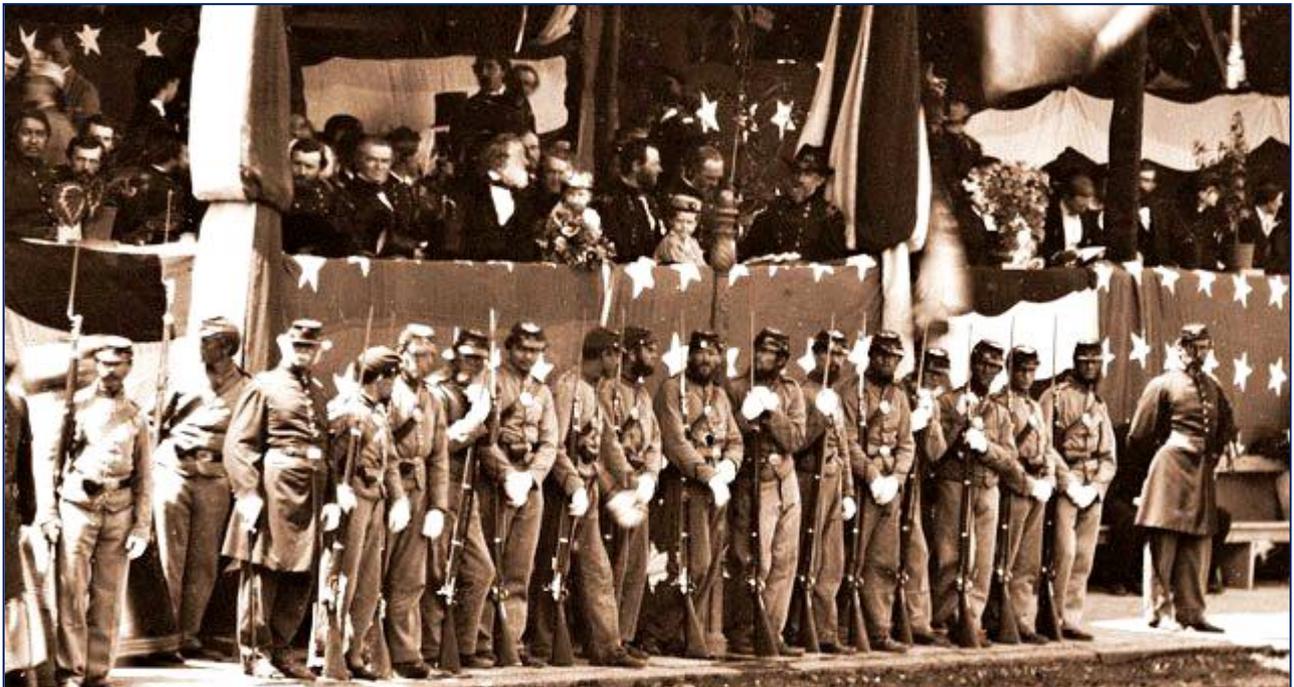
# THE BUGLE 36

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table Queensland Inc.  
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## SESQUI CENTENNIAL TIME LINE 150 YEARS AGO TODAY



Editor: The Bugle continues following events as they occurred 150 years ago at the time of issue. I wish to thank Don Zuckero of the ACWRT in Houston, Texas, for his assistance in preparing this brief outline a century and a half ago. We sit today and watch the grand march past of history and re-examine torrid circumstances as they unfold before us in a much more objective manner. Look at the faces in this picture of dignitaries, it is an amazing attendance. Look at the officers and soldiers attending, a truly candid photograph, rare for the times.

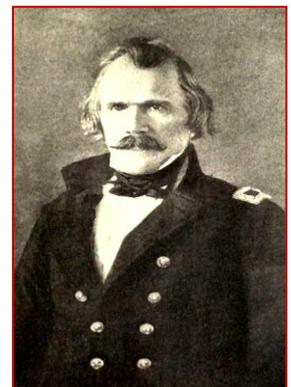
# M

arch 1862 sees Confederate **General A. S. Johnston** take command of **The Army of Mississippi**. Only two days later, 7 March there is a two day **Battle of Pea Ridge** in Arkansas. (For a detailed account of this battle see page 2 this issue.) It's the biggest battle west of the Mississippi and results in a costly victory for the North under **U.S. General S. R. Curtis** and a tragic defeat for the Confederates.

Two days later ironclads **USS Monitor** and **CSS Virginia** batter each other off the Virginia coast. Both ships are compelled to leave the scene with neither able to claim victory although Virginia can say she prevented the Monitor from taking control of the area.

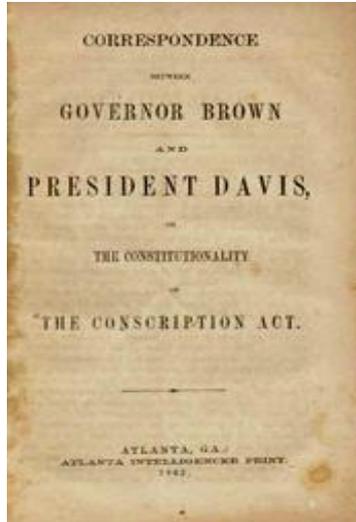
Overnight, 14 March, the Northern army captures **New Madrid** in **Missouri**. 20 March, the South begins constructing a fort at **Drewry's Bluff** to protect Richmond. The cards keep falling against the South when on 23 March the **First Battle of Kernstown** ends in the defeat of **General Stonewall Jackson**.

Only five days later the North is victorious again at the **Battle of La Glorietta Pass** in **New Mexico**.



A. S. Johnston C.S.A.

A distraught South is in for more shocks in April, *Yorktown* in Virginia is put under siege by U.S. **General G. B. McClellan**. 7 April the North is ultimately victorious at the bloody *Battle of Shiloh* (*Pittsburgh Landing in Tennessee*.) While *General Johnston* rode amongst his troops and looked like stirring up victory, sadly he was shot and bled to death in the saddle. Rapid widespread disaster follows as the union captures *Island 10* in Missouri and *Fort Pulaski* in Georgia.



To meet the onslaught of disastrous attacks, the first Confederate Conscription is passed 16 April. As April draws to a close **Captain D. G Farragut** and his fleet pass *Fort Jackson*, *Fort St Philip* and *Chalmette*; the following day *New Orleans* in *Louisiana* is captured. As if that wasn't enough, four Confederate forts then rapidly fell on the *Mississippi River*.

Events are already overwhelming the South so soon after the start of the war. A ray of hope would not have been known to the populace at the time, 28 April 1862 the British twin funnelled steamship *Oreto* arrives at Nassau

to be refitted as the Confederate raider *C.S.S. Florida*. (See previous issue #35 *The Bugle* for a detailed account of the ship and its master.) March and April 1862 are disasters for the South and have the hallmarks of what is to come. The South merely wants to be left alone, to get on with governing their new democratically organised country; the North would have none of it and none of State's Rights, or independence. The very principles of Liberty, as enshrined in the Constitution, were sacrificed and today we should ask why? The South did not attack the North and because it fought a defensive war, as seen in these two short months, it lost. From day one there was no chance of winning a war but what about the freedom to vote for a government of your choice? What about the right of a State to determine its own circumstance? Texas voluntarily joined the U.S. only a few years before the war, then opted to join the South, her wishes should have been respected. These are the questions asked then that are as much valid today and deserve a straight answer. What about the so called 'freedom for blacks' who still live in poverty? The war is still a focus for us, a chance to look for truth where there has been much falsehood in the past. America is waking up to its history and has an African American as President.

Southerners are again proud to be 'Southern' and after 150 years, North and South are finding a new identity and experiencing a spiritual re-awakening. Economic circumstances aside, the cultural heritage is rich and for those of us with an interest in its history, America is a land of eternal fascination. It was not only American; it was a multicultural war involving all of our ancestors world wide, a "*War of the World*." This is why it holds a fascination even for us in Australia.

## THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE



**M**ajor General Sterling Price was a Lawyer, Planter and Politician from *Missouri*, he served as the 11<sup>th</sup> Governor of the State from 1853 to 1857. During the war with Mexico, *Price* was Brigadier General and when war broke out between North and South he became Major General for the Confederacy. Perhaps *Price* is best known for his victories in New Mexico and at Chihuahua (*pronounced: chee 'wah wah*) during the Mexican conflict. *Price* is equally known for his losses

at the Battles of *Pea Ridge* and *Westport* during the War Between the States; all connected to later ill-fated Missouri Campaigns of 1864.

Following the war, *General Price*, hoping to gain service with *Emperor Maximillian*, took his remaining troops and their colours to Mexico rather than surrender. Sadly for *Price* and *Maximillian*, it was to be another lost cause. *Sterling Price* ultimately returned to *Missouri*; the call of home always too strong, as many Confederates discovered. *Sterling* died in humiliation and poverty and was buried in St Louis.

The victory of *Sterling Price* at *Lexington* in September 1861 had important long term consequences later in Missouri. *General Price* was forced to abandon his position on the Missouri River when Union reinforcements arrived and retreat back into *Springfield*.

**TO ARMS! TO ARMS!**  
**\$50 BOUNTY!**

Do not wait to be Drafted, but Volunteer!!

The subscribers wish to get sixty Recruits for  
**CAPT. STICELMAN'S COMPANY VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERS.**

Persons wishing to enlist will find it greatly to their advantage to join this Company, as we can offer superior inducements.

You will receive pay and subsistence from the time your names are enrolled; your bounty of 50 dollars, and 25 dollars for clothing, as soon as you can be examined by an Army Surgeon.

For further particulars apply to us at Floyd Court House, Va.  
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February 22, 1862.

WE WILL ATTEND THE  
**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

to be held at the following places  
Indian Valley, Saturday, March 1st; Jackson Harriess' Stillhouse, Monday, 3rd; Jacob S. Harman's Store, Friday, 7th; Oil Mills Saturday, 8th; Copper Hill, Friday, 14th; Locust Grove, Saturday, 15th, and at Floyd Court House, March, 20th (Court day.)



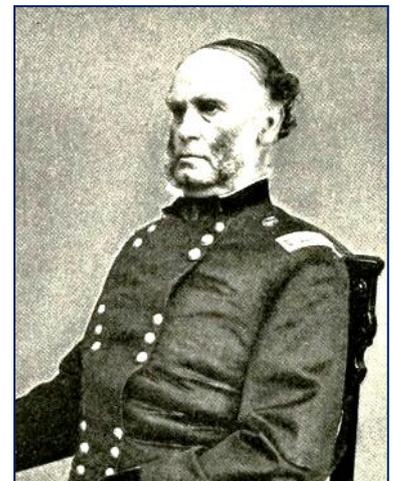
Maj. Gen. Stirling Price C.S.A.

In spite of this, his campaign proved the *Missouri State Guard* a highly effective fighting force. In the spring of 1862 Union commanders wanted to use *St. Louis* as a base to conduct operations down the *Mississippi River* but *General Price* CSA and his command threaten these plans. The Federals worry that they will have to commit soldiers to Missouri when they are urgently needed elsewhere.

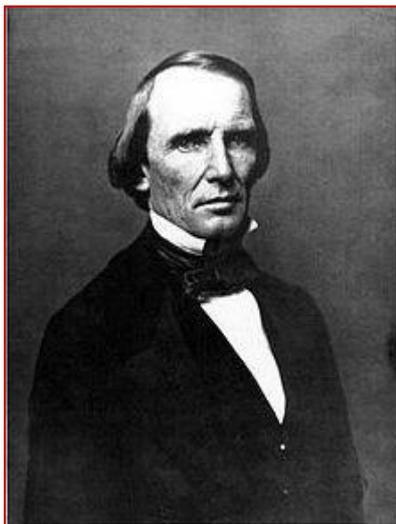
In bad weather, the primitive roads of the day usually confine armies to camp during long winter months. In Missouri, the Union army is impatient to alter the strategic situation before spring and orders Union *General Samuel R. Curtis* to risk a winter campaign to gain advantage over Confederates in Missouri. As we read in the previous issue of *The Bugle* (#35) it is a terrible winter and *Curtis* will face more than normal dangers while operating in the frozen Ozarks. The rugged, remote region has a relatively small population and limited food supplies, already depleted by previous campaigns. Being able to take at least some food from the countryside is essential since the railroad ends at *Rolla*, some 100 miles distant from *Springfield*. *General Curtis* relies on wagons to transport supplies beyond *Rolla*, a lengthy supply line that proves to be an inviting target for Confederates who can easily force Federals into desperate battles for their logistical and over stretched lifelines.

The survival of his army means *Curtis* depends on two crucial factors...first the soldiers have to travel lightly; each man carrying only absolutely necessary supplies. Secondly, an aggressive supply officer is required to ensure provisions keep up with the army, regardless of roads, weather or the protestations of local farmers. To this end *Curtis* makes an excellent choice for this all important assignment; *Captain Phillip Sheridan*. In 1864 *Sheridan* was to earn fame and infamy for his destruction of Confederate resources in *Virginia's Shenandoah Valley*. *Sheridan's* service as *Trans-Mississippi Supply Officer* was a valuable experience, helping forge the methodical, inhumane, ruthless treatment that he would later deal out in liberal proportions. It's hard to imagine that *Sheridan* considers the people he victimises as fellow Americans. Much like *Sherman*, *Sheridan* has no obvious concern for individuals and is bent on butchery, rape and pillage, even of those sympathetic to the Northern cause who are caught up along the way.

Meanwhile, the *Confederate High Command* is in turmoil. A coalition of *Missouri* and *Arkansas* Confederate troops won the *Battle of Wilson's Creek* on 10 August 1861 but this fragile alliance falls apart in the following months.



General Samuel R. Curtis. U.S.



Ben McCulloch C.S.A.

*Benjamin McCulloch* was a soldier in the Texas Revolution; a Texas Ranger, U.S. Marshall and Brigadier General for the C.S.A. When *David Crockett* said, "You can all go to hell, I'm goin' to Texas," in 1835, *Ben McCulloch* and his brother *Henry* decided to join him at *Nacogdoches* but *Ben* falls ill with measles and they miss their rendezvous. Once recovered he and *Henry* press on to *San Antonio* arriving after the fall of *The Alamo*. When Texas secedes from the Union, 1 Feb 1861, *McCulloch* receives a Colonel's commission from President *Jeff Davis*. After expelling union troops from *San Antonio* he is made Brigadier General, *McCulloch* is very much cast in the *Crockett* mould.

Strained relations between victorious *General Benjamin McCulloch* and *General Sterling Price* continue; old rivalries die hard. Like *Curtis*, *McCulloch* worries about supply lines and is now forced to care for Union prisoners as well as his own troops. Battle weary, *McCulloch* struggles to maintain an already tenuous supply system. The logistics of supply, so beautifully managed by the North throughout the war, are already crumbling in the South preventing Confederates capitalizing on victories; *McCulloch* has no interest in leading a campaign to the *Missouri River* with his arch rival *General Sterling Price*. This conflict of personalities haunts the South and is significant in its downfall.

Early in December, *McCulloch* retreats to *Cross Hollows*, *Arkansas*; a wise move. Northwest *Arkansas* remains a valuable agricultural centre that Confederates can't afford to lose. Its closeness to *Missouri*, just eighteen miles across the state line, makes *Cross Hollows* an ideal location for *McCulloch's* winter quarters. From here he can remain close to the base, protect the resources of northwest *Arkansas* and continue to monitor events in *Missouri*; from here he also has the comfort of a good supply system to strengthen his men.

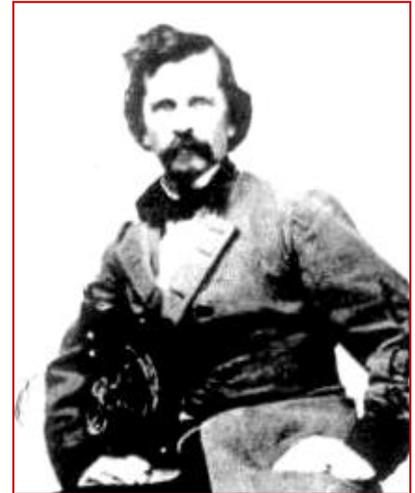
*Cross Hollows* is a sprawling Confederate encampment, ranging from log huts and canvas to well-constructed cabins. Most of *McCulloch's* men are in cabins built by local resident *Peter Van Winkle*, who owns a mill near *White River*, three miles from what becomes *Camp Benjamin*. The Confederate government pays *Van Winkle* for all the lumber and labour he provides, including a small number of slaves who do the manual work.



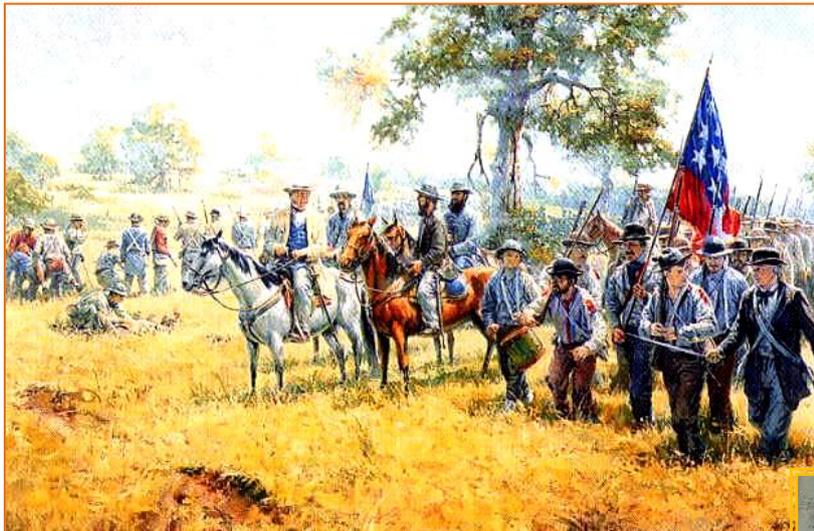
evidence suggests most of the soldiers in the large camp are armed with .69 calibre smoothbore muskets. The large number of hobnails recovered during excavations suggests boots and shoes didn't hold up well in the rugged hills of the Ozarks. Confederate quartermasters somehow overcame the enormous logistic problems to provide soldiers with the best equipment possible under the harsh and restricted conditions of the time.

Realizing that a new commander is the best hope for effective cooperation between McCulloch and Price, **Confederate President Jeff Davis** orders flamboyant cavalryman **Major General Earl van Dorn** to take command of the the **Trans-Mississippi**. However, before he can arrive to take up responsibilities, the strategic situation drastically changes; **Curtis'** Federal army advances in January 1862 and **Price** is forced to abandon **Springfield** on 12 February. **Price** also abandons large amounts of valuable supplies; a virtual bounty for hungry Federal soldiers. A Union soldier writes, "**Missourians heard exaggerated rumours about Curtis coming with 60,000 men and carrying black flags, hence their hasty evacuation.**"

Marching south along **Telegraph Road**, the **Missouri State Guard** conducts a fighting rearguard retreat for four days, as **Curtis** follows closely. Although winter downpours pelt the soldiers daily hard fought skirmishes still occur. Short rations in the Union army are amply supplemented by supplies abandoned by the **Missouri State Guard**. A larger skirmish is fought along **Little Sugar Creek** on 17 February, just south of **Elkhorn Tavern**, in **Benton County, Arkansas**. While **Curtis** remains in position assessing his options, **McCulloch** destroys his encampment at **Cross Hollows** on 19 February and retreats to **Fayetteville**.



Major General Earl van Dorn



**battling in the same cause; but all in vain; stealing had become a kind of recreation and they would steal. General Price himself strove to check the disorder which I have attempted faintly to describe but for once his commands were powerless and the work of ruin went on.** Given the circumstances of conditions, who could blame them, there was little point in leaving it all for Yankees. After gathering what they could carry, Confederates under **McCulloch** burnt **Fayetteville** and the overburdened army fell back into the sanctuary of **Boston Mountains**.

In this Tintype picture, on the right is **Private P. S. Alexander of Moniteau County Rangers**, he has a garland in his hat. On the left is **Private S. W. Stone of California Guards**. The clothing and weaponry is typical of the **Missouri State Guard C.S.A.** Stone is wearing an elaborate hand tooled leather sheath with a **Bowie knife** and is holding a musket while **Alexander** has a civilian half stock rifle and a large knife in his belt.

Image courtesy Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. WICR 30025

The strategic value of **Fayetteville** was to Confederates what **Springfield** was to Federals, an important supply centre. Tons of valuable military resources were kept there, but **McCulloch's** forces have no way of transporting the stores. Confederates salvage what they can of military value but the desperate and cold soldiers also plunder many of the stores for themselves. A **Fayetteville** minister, **William Baxter** recalls that officers worked valiantly to prevent looting but to no avail, "**Officers threatened, cursed, called them thieves, made appeals to their manliness and State pride, and to the fact they were among those**



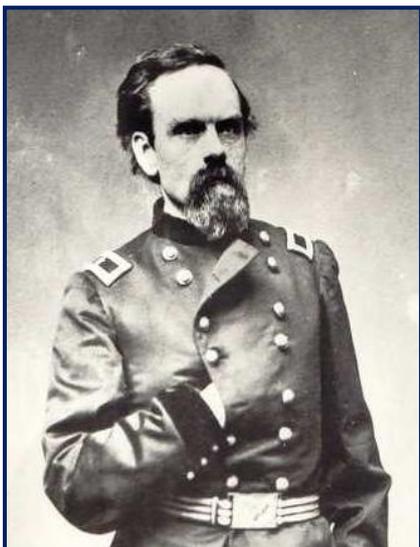
The Confederate retreat through southwest **Missouri** and northwest **Arkansas** is a strategic defeat, however **van Dorn** knows it also presents opportunities; **Curtis** has failed to prevent the

*Missouri State Guard* joining up with Confederate allies. Worse yet, his *Army of the Southwest* has marched to the end of its supply line, leading *Curtis* to divide his army. One division is placed at *Cross Hollows*, another at *McKissick's Creek*. While this exposed position maximizes foraging opportunities, it is an inviting target. If *van Dorn* can seize *Bentonville*, strategically located between the two halves of the Union army, the Confederates can yet defeat each division, separately.

Defeat of *Curtis* will open the way to *Missouri*, possibly all the way to *St. Louis*. For this to work the army has to move quickly before *Curtis* can realise what's happening. *Van Dorn* orders each man to carry only essential equipment on the forced march; a weapon, 40 rounds of ammunition, blanket and three days rations. All other supplies are left behind. The Confederates have every reason to be optimistic, *Van Dorn* is seizing the initiative, as the historian *William L. Shea* argues, "**He's leading the largest and best equipped Confederate army to serve in the Trans-Mississippi.**" As a frontier cavalry commander in the antebellum army, *Van Dorn* excels at leading quick, offensive operations, unfortunately, his army is not a company of cavalry.

*Van Dorn's* failure to appreciate the logistic challenges of moving a large army in exhausting conditions is to be his downfall. The Confederate advance begins on 4 March, almost at the start things go wrong, *Major General Earl van Dorn* quickly moves ahead of the column on an ambulance wagon. Unable to keep up, hundreds of Confederate infantrymen straggle out behind or collapse from exhaustion. A heavy blizzard adds to their misery as temperatures plunge and roads become virtually impassable; still the army valiantly tries to maintain *van Dorn's* pace. Remarkably the Confederates are only twelve miles from *Bentonville* on the morning of 6 March. *Van Dorn* once again finds the strategic situation is changed, alerted to the Rebel movement by a *Fayetteville* Unionist; *Curtis* has his army dig in along *Little Sugar Creek*.

Despite this, *Van Dorn* remains determined to attack though hoping the troops can sleep that night. *McCulloch* now sees a strategic advantage near the Missouri line on *Bentonville Detour* that intersects with *Telegraph Road*. If *van Dorn's* army reaches this junction, *Curtis* will be cut off from supplies and any chance of escape. *Van Dorn* orders the army on a night march to seize the crossroads, unfortunately Union commanders also anticipate the move; the road is littered with trees and by morning, only the head of the column reaches *Telegraph Road*. With time running out, *Van Dorn* orders *McCulloch* and *Price's* divisions to march on each side of *Big Mountain*. They are to converge at *Elkhorn Tavern* and strike the Union army from behind. Once again, Federal troops hinder Southern plans; while small units delay them *Curtis* shifts his army to the North. So far, valiant Confederate efforts haven't paid off, *van Dorn's* unrealistic pace squanders a rare Southern numerical advantage and he loses the element of surprise. Although *Curtis* shifts his army to meet the threat, he doesn't wait to be attacked.



On the morning of 7 March, *Curtis* orders *Colonel Peter Osterhaus* (seen on left) to advance with his German division and make contact with Confederates on *Bentonville Detour*. *McCulloch's* and *Osterhaus's* troops collide near the village of *Leetown*. In the initial exchange *McCulloch's* cavalry easily push back the Union advance, half mounted and half dismounted *Cherokee* soldiers, commanded by *Albert Pike* drive off two companies of Union cavalry in separate attacks. As Federals organise a defensive position, *Osterhaus* opens fire with his artillery and calls for reinforcements. The Confederates are well placed and obscured from view by trees but the Union

barrage has an important effect, *Pike's* Native Americans have never been exposed to artillery fire before and as a few of them celebrate the 'victory' by scalping Union dead, they are caught by surprise and flee the battlefield.

The charge in the opening phase of the battle was the *Cherokee's* only important action in the *Battle of Pea Ridge* but Confederate Indians will later serve bravely under General Stand Wattie to the end of the war.



Charge near Leetown includes Cherokee Confederates, later to fight with General Stand Wattie

In slowing Confederate advances until reinforcements arrive, *Osterhaus* has done well. *McCulloch*, realises he will now have to attack Federals with infantry and in so doing the Confederate command structure is decimated in the fierce fighting that develops, this is to be a decisive factor at *Leetown*.

The first critical casualty is *Ben McCulloch*; mounted on horseback and dressed in a fine black suit, he's an easy target for skirmishers of the 36th Illinois Infantry. With *McCulloch's* death, command falls to *James McIntosh* but he too is killed just minutes after *McCulloch*. Although he doesn't know it, *Colonel Louis Hebert* is now senior Confederate officer at *Leetown*. *Hebert* leads his men forward in a furious attack on the Union right. The battle rages back and forth throughout the wooded terrain with Union troops being forced to lie down in the face of such fierce Confederate fire. *Hebert's* troops nearly break through Union positions but he becomes the third Confederate commander on the front to be removed from the fight when, in the confusion of battle and smoke, he accidentally enters Federal lines and is captured. *Lyman Bennett*, an officer in the 36th Illinois, vividly describes the savage battle raging in the woods, "**Great God, what a scene is presented, the mangled trunks of men are thickly scattered around. From each tree or sheltering rock the groans of the wounded arise. Muskets, saddles, horses, blankets, hats and clothes hang on every bush, or in gory manner strew the ground. And now in the valley to the right, ten thousand wild cheers proclaim the victory ours. Dead horses, dead men and dismounted guns, are strewed over the blood drenched field and as some gun is taken or trophy secured, renewed cheering and shouts of gladness ring out upon the air... Lyman Bennett – 8 March, 1862**"

Union reinforcements, or the lack of Confederate leadership, brings the fighting to an end. For Southerners, *Leetown* is a stark reminder of what might have been. Hundreds of Confederate troops await orders with no one to lead them as the battle hangs in the balance.



**Elkhorn Tavern still stands to this day**

Meanwhile, a larger battle rages near *Elkhorn Tavern*, two miles east of *Leetown*. While *Osterhaus* prepares to move with his command, *Curtis* receives reports about Confederate troops in *Cross Hollow*, near *Elkhorn Tavern*. *Curtis* believes the movement on the *Bentonville Detour* is a diversion and the real attack will come at *Little Sugar Creek*. He couldn't accept the entire Confederate army is headed for his rear at *Elkhorn Tavern*. Still, *Curtis* quickly sends *Eugene Carr* and his division to investigate, *Carr* discovers reports to be true and suddenly the *Army of the Southwest* is engaged on two fronts.

When *Van Dorn* personally leads *Price's* division into action with his command deployed deep in *Cross Timber Hollow*, he doesn't know his troops outnumber the Yankees in front. Fortunately for the Federals, *Carr*, like *Osterhaus* at *Leetown*, performs extremely well by launching a sharp counterattack that temporarily halts *Van Dorn's* offensive. A stalemate ensues for much of the afternoon as battle rages in the tangled timber. Late in the afternoon, *Van Dorn*, realising his advantage in numbers, attacks and orders *Price* to extend his lines. The Confederates heroically charge up *Cross Timber Hollow* and overrun Union defenders atop *Pea Ridge*, *Elkhorn Tavern* falls to the Confederate onslaught. The shattered Union forces rally in *Ruddick's Field*, along *Telegraph Road*. When *Van Dorn* attacks again; the Federals hold their ground until darkness ends fighting; both commanders have toiled long and hard to consolidate their positions.

The Army of the Southwest is now concentrated along *Telegraph Road* where food, water and ammunition is distributed to troops. Many Confederate units have marched all night from *Big Mountain* to reach the battlefield, arriving so exhausted that many are unable to participate in the second day's fighting. Worse yet, *Van Dorn's* forced marches outpace his ammunition supplies, wagons are abandoned along *Little Sugar Creek* only twelve miles from the army's current position. Hundreds of Confederate soldiers spend a cold and miserable night on the battlefield scavenging food from abandoned Union haversacks and hoping for more ammunition to continue the fight. Had they been able to do so, the pages of history would read differently today and the battle may indeed have had far reaching consequences for Missouri.

Confederates are hampered by more than ammunition and food, the weapons they carry prove a disadvantage. Earlier

sources describe a wide variety of weapons being used in the **Battle of Pea Ridge**, with most accounts suggesting civilian weapons such as hunting rifles and shotguns, especially in Confederate ranks. Recent archaeological digs have forced historians to question this. Archaeological records reveal the overwhelming use of military issue firearms, especially the *M1816* and *M1842* smoothbore muskets. These antiquated weapons had an effective range of about 100 yards, compared to 500 yards for rifled muskets. Remnants of civilian weapons were found, but in tiny numbers compared to military equipment.

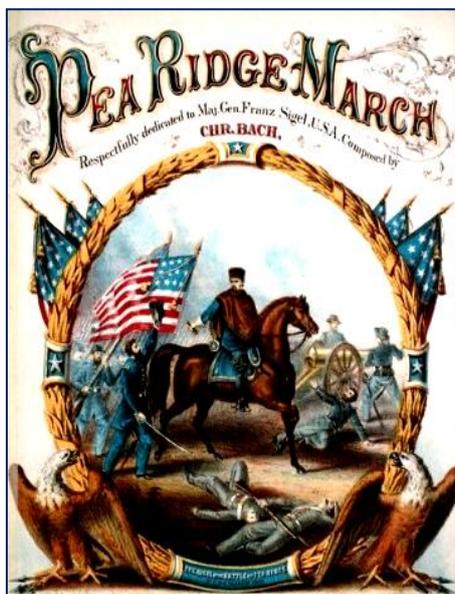


A more recent painting reveals Elkhorn Tavern looking as much as it does today

Based on recovered artefacts, it now seems likely that less than **1%** of the soldiers who fought at *Pea Ridge* carried civilian firearms. On the morning of 8 March, *Curtis* expects an attack but when it doesn't come Union artillery is brought forward and opens fire on Confederate positions. After a successful bombardment, almost 10,000 Union infantrymen surge forward. The Confederate position, that looked so hopeful earlier, collapses and *van Dorn* orders a general retreat. Casualties are heavy on both sides at *Pea Ridge*. *Curtis'* Union army loses **1,384 men**, about **13%** of the total engaged. Confederate records are incomplete so casualty figures for *Van Dorn's* army are difficult to determine, the best estimates place Confederate losses at approximately **2,000**, or roughly **15%** of their total force.

*Pea Ridge* permanently alters the strategic situation in Missouri and Arkansas. The battle forces Confederate commanders to seriously question their ability to hold the Trans-Mississippi, a reality that was already greatly compromised in February by **General Ulysses S. Grant's** capture of **Fort Henry** on the Tennessee River and **Fort Donelson** on the Cumberland River, forcing Confederates to abandon middle Tennessee. Now thousands of Confederate troops retreat to the vital rail centre at **Corinth**, Mississippi. From here **General Albert Sidney Johnston** plans a campaign to recapture lost ground. *Van Dorn* learnt little from his mismanagement of the *Pea Ridge Campaign*. Shortly after the battle he resumes correspondence with **Pierre G. T. Beauregard** who asks *van Dorn* to join forces with him in Tennessee to drive up the Mississippi River and capture St. Louis by water. This plan is as unrealistic as the forced marches *van Dorn* ordered at *Pea Ridge*, yet he can't resist the impulse. *Van Dorn* not only ships his troops east of the Mississippi, he strips Arkansas of virtually all war making materials. With no approval from Confederate officials in Richmond, *van Dorn* abandons Missouri and Arkansas to Union forces.

Like their Confederate counterparts, many Union troops were transferred east of the Mississippi River after *Pea Ridge*. Ironically, the absence of large armies actually made the **Ozarks** more dangerous for civilians. With little Confederate oversight, Guerrilla bands operated freely, terrorizing both Union troops and civilians. Union counter-guerrilla operations became increasingly harsh and hundreds of innocent civilians were caught in the middle of a deadly struggle that grew steadily more vicious, enough to stain the pages of history red with their blood.



### Further reading:

Civil War Painter: <http://dannance.com/american-civil-war>  
<http://pjoesterhaus.com/>

Eye Witness to the Civil War National Geographic Kagan and Hislop. 100-109.  
 William L. Shea and Earl J. Hess, *Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1992), 3-5.  
 Shea and Hess, *Pea Ridge*, 10-11.20-22. 110-143. 270-71. 286-89.  
 Jerry Hilliard, Mike Evans, Jared Pebwoth, and Carl Carlson-Drexler, "A Confederate Encampment at Cross Hollow, Benton County," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* (Winter 2008): 360-61; Piston and Hatcher, *Wilson's Creek*, 315-16. Hilliard, "Confederate Encampment at Cross Hollows," 361-73. William Baxter, *Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove or Scenes and Incidents of the War in Arkansas* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2000), 21-23. Carl G. Carlson-Drexler, Douglas D. Scott, and Harold Roeker, "The Battle Raged...with Terrible Fury:" Battlefield Archaeology of Pea Ridge National Military Park (Midwest Archaeological Centre, National Park Service: Lincoln, Nebraska, 2005), 81, 103-06.

## BATTLE OF HAMPTON ROADS. THE IRONCLADS. 8-9 MARCH 1862



Captain Franklin Buchanan CSN

# A

rguably the most noted and important navy engagement in the War Between the States, especially with the impact it had on the development of a completely new concept of naval warfare and the construction of the world's modern navies, was ***The Battle of Hampton Roads***. Even the 'Ruler of Britannia's Waves,' Great Britain, had to bow to the wisdom of these new ships.

The battle raged over two days, March 8–9, 1862 at a roadstead in Virginia called ***Hampton Roads***, where the ***Elizabeth*** and ***Nansemond*** rivers converge to meet meet ***James River*** before entering the largest estuary in the United States, ***Chesapeake Bay***. The famed battle was part of the South's attempt to break a strangle hold enforced by a blockade of ports by the belligerent North that cut off Virginia's largest cities, ***Norfolk*** and ***Richmond***, from international trade.

Of major significance, the battle saw the first use of ***ironclad warships*** in combat. The Confederate fleet consisted of several supporting vessels like ***The Teaser***, covered in an earlier issue #30 of *The Bugle* and the ironclad ram ***CSS Virginia*** (see issue #29 *The Bugle*) that had been built on the old hull of ***USS Merrimack***. It is important to ignore the name "Merrimack" in your studies as little of the original was used only the keel and hull, to build Virginia, any use of the Union name confuses many who study this battle for the first time. She was renamed ***Virginia*** in her new iron clad guise and as such was ***CSS Virginia*** in her famed battles.

On the first day of battle, they were opposed by several conventional wooden-hulled ships of the Northern navy, ***Virginia*** was easily able to destroy two ships of the Federal flotilla and was about to attack a third, ***USS Minnesota*** that had run aground. However, action was halted by darkness and a falling tide, so ***Virginia*** retired to take care of her few wounded, including the captain, ***Flag Officer Franklin Buchanan*** and to repair minimal battle damage amounting to numerous holes in her funnel and slight damage to one gunport.



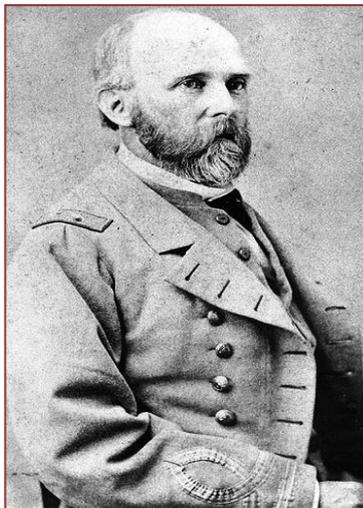
The air hung thick with smoke as the two Leviathans did battle, bouncing large cannon balls off each other.



OVER-WEIGHTED.

“Look here Father Nep.’ who’s to ‘rule the waves’ in this sort of thing?” (Punch Cartoon)

The battle received worldwide attention and had immediate effects on navies around the world. The pre-eminent naval powers, Great Britain and France, halted further construction of wooden-hulled ships, and others followed suit. A new type of warship was produced, the Monitor Class, based on the principle of the original. The use of a small number of very heavy guns, mounted so that they could fire in all directions was first demonstrated by *Monitor* but soon became standard in warships of all types. Shipbuilders also incorporated rams into the designs of warship hulls for the rest of the century and so both ships had an influence on naval design for a long time to come.



Catesby ap Roger Jones

In August 1862, *Buchanan* was promoted to the rank of Admiral and sent to command Confederate naval forces at *Mobile Bay* in Alabama. He later oversaw the construction of the ironclad *CSS Tennessee* and was on board during the *Battle of Mobile Bay* against *Rear Admiral David Glasgow Farragut's* Northern fleet on 5 August 1864. Wounded and taken prisoner, Admiral *Buchanan* was exchanged in February 1865 and remained on convalescent leave until the war ended a few months later.



Captains Frank Buchanan and Josiah Tattnall

The *Virginia* met her fate at the hands of her own crew. On 11 May 1862, in the face of advancing Federal forces, *Flag Officer Tattnall* ordered the destruction of what was by then his flagship. He was later acquitted by court martial of all charges stemming from this action to resume command of Georgia's naval forces on 29 May 1862, retaining the position until 31 March 1863 when he turned over his command to *Richard L. Page* to enable him to concentrate on the shore defences of *Savannah*. When *Savannah* fell to *General Sherman's* troops, *Tattnall* was taken prisoner of war. Paroled on 9 May 1865 he took up residence once more in *Savannah*. *Captain Tattnall* died there and is buried in *Bonaventure Cemetery*.

Editor: This story is covered in more detail in two previous issues of *The Bugle* #29 and #30.



## SHILOH'S 'WAR OF THE WORLD'

**S**pread over two days, this horrific battle saw the much vaunted Union army under **General Grant** lose 1,754 killed while Confederates, under General Johnston, lost 1,728. Wounded Federal soldiers numbered 8,408 against 8,012 Confederate. There is a huge discrepancy between those posted missing in action. Artillery usually accounts for these by completely erasing any identifiable remains but the U.S. lost in action 2,885 to the Confederate's 959. These are telling figures that give, what is often described as a 'Union Victory,' another edge. The North lost 13,047 and the South 10,699. On these figures alone you could say the South was victorious but as you will read, more things reveal victory than casualties, especially when **Grant** is around. While **Shiloh** is often called **"the bloodiest battle of the war,"** I find this peculiar when **Gettysburg** far exceeds these grim figures. However history says, **"More Americans were killed or wounded in April in two days of fighting at Shiloh, than had fallen in battle during the entire Revolutionary war with Britain."** We'll look at these figures again later but in the months to come, Federals would occupy **New Orleans** and besiege **Richmond**. Confederates would invade **Maryland** triggering unparalleled fury at **Antietam**.



**P**hotographer **Alexander Gardner** captured the horror of the war, Mathew Brady, always quick to claim the work of others, displayed **Gardner's** images in New York shocking the populace. One visitor to the gallery of carnage exclaimed, **"If he has not brought bodies and laid them in under door yards and along our streets, he has done something like it."**

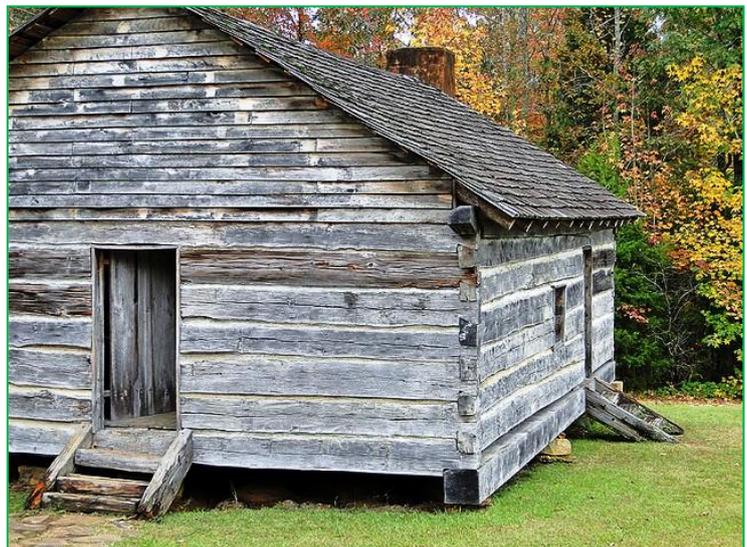
**S**cottish photographer, **Alexander Gardner** went to the United States in 1856 to work full-time in the profession. He's best known for his photographs of the American War Between the States, Abraham Lincoln and the execution of so called **'Conspirators'** to Lincoln's assassination, he is now known as much for his manipulation of the scenes he captured, dragging bodies to more appropriate locations.

**A**lbert Sidney Johnston was the catalyst at Shiloh; he once said, **"Texas has made me a rebel twice."** On the fall of **Fort Donelson** **General Johnston** knew he had lost a sizeable portion of his army over a position he had no confidence in holding. Although beset by public scorn, he proved **Jeff Davis'** trust in him by following a course that was militarily sound but politically unpopular, or **'incorrect,'** to use modern terminology. He abandoned Nashville to advancing Federals and withdrew in what some called **'a panic'** from most of Tennessee. The **Tennessee State legislature** demanded **Johnston's** removal but **Davis** said, **"If Johnston is not a General we had better give up the war, for we have no General."**

**J**ohnston's men hated giving ground but spirits were boosted when told it was a tactical withdrawal designed to lure **Grant** into a more vulnerable position for attack. **Grant's** confidence and aggression made him highly susceptible to this stratagem, a pity not more General's followed it; putting yourself in the enemy's mind is a very rare attribute. **Johnston** wanted **Grant** to think he was on the run, **Grant** took the bait; the political storm raging in Atlanta fuelling this belief. **Grant** was too confident of crushing **Johnston's** army; always giving too much thought to what **he** might do to his enemy, rather than what **they** might do to him. **Johnston** correctly identified this weakness and a U.S. General he was soon to face on the field, revealed an appalling ineptitude for one so great in later years, **William Tecumseh Sherman**.

**B**y 1 April, **Grant's** army was ready for their **'April Fools Day'** as they moved up **Tennessee River** to within 20 miles of Mississippi's border. **Johnston** camped just below at **Corinth** where **Grant** assumed they were digging in. A more prudent officer would have camped on the east bank while awaiting **Buell's** reinforcements but **Grant** set up camp on the west bank at **Pittsburg Landing** saying to an officer, **"We will have to go to Corinth where the rebels are fortified."**

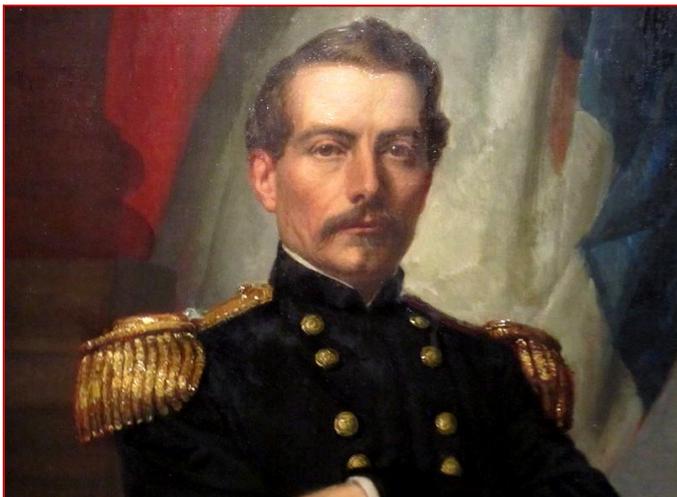
**I**n spite of many historic accounts, **Johnston's** men were fairly equal in numbers to **Grant** but still unaware of the strength of the enemy, **Johnston** sought to release the cooks and teamsters to be soldiers and replace them with slaves from nearby plantations. Local planters would have none of it and refused to part with their highly valued assets. **"These people,"** complained **Johnston**. **"do not seem to be aware how valueless will be their negroes, were we beaten."** This is a telling point of the war and reveals much about the attitude of the few slave owners to the South's dilemma; like **Rhett Butler**, in **Gone With the Wind**, they **'frankly didn't give a damn.'** This was to prove their undoing in years to come; greed over public good; nothing has changed. A similar attitude existed in Australia with **Kanaka** labour, nothing would come between the planter and his profit, certainly not human rights or freedom.



Shiloh Church faithfully reconstructed

While Australia is puritanical about its past, the disgraceful enforced labour of Polynesians, known as 'Kanakas' was a mirror image of both South and Northern States, governed by the same disgraceful racist attitude; and in some cases by people from the same country.

With his battle experience, **Beauregard**, who would forever be forced to command **Charleston** after this battle, was entrusted with planning the attack. On the surface a good decision but history soon proves it wrong. **Beauregard** was known to be 'loose hearted' in difficult situations and on 5 April, while Confederates stealthfully move northward from **Corinth** to prepare and strike an unsuspecting foe, the men were boisterous and some start shooting rabbits and deer stirred up by the advance, **Beauregard** now loses heart, fearing the element of surprise has been lost he warns **Johnston**, "**The Federals will now be entrenched to their eyes**" and urges his commander to pull back. **Johnston** correctly doubts that **Grant** is thinking defensively and orders the nervous **Beauregard** to, "**Forge ahead! We shall attack at daylight tomorrow; by noon we will water our horses in the Tennessee River.**" This is a wonderful insight into the man's perception of war, he was quite correct and so indeed they could have been 'watering their horses' but for the over reluctant **Beauregard**.



General Beauregard enjoyed a reputation as a Lady's man

A number of recruits were in their mid-teens with many being discharged from the army after Shiloh for being only 15. **James Daniel Richardson** (right) of **Murfreesboro** was 18 when he signed up, performing so well at Shiloh he was promoted Adjutant-Major serving in most of the leading battles before being wounded in the arm by a minié ball at **The Battle of Resaca**. After the war, **Richardson** emerged a prominent **Democratic** leader, U.S. Congressman, nationally known historian and editor. A Freemason, he served as **Grand Commander** in the **House of the Temple** and received a full **Kadash** ritual ceremony at his funeral. Carrying his wounds to the end of his life, two fingers were permanently paralysed. Battle's like **Shiloh** could either make or break a man.

The **45th Tennessee** was just one of many regiments assembled by **Johnston** from across the region, I've focussed on it merely as an example. **Johnston** has merged the **Army of Central Kentucky** with the **Army of Mississippi** and put **General P. G. T. Beauregard** as second-in-command. Corps commanders are **Braxton Bragg**, **Leonidas Polk**, **William Hardee** and **George Crittenden**. At the time, **General Beauregard** is best-known due to his victory at the **Battle of First Mannassas**, '**Bull Run**' and for commanding the opening of the war at **Charleston**.



"I distinctly remember my first shot at Shiloh. It was fired when we were in our first position... I think that when the boys saw the enemy advancing they began firing of their own notion, without waiting for orders. At least I don't remember hearing any. I was in the front rank but didn't fire. I preferred to wait for a good opportunity, when I could take deliberate aim at some individual foe but when the regiment fired, the Confederates halted and began firing also and the fronts of both lines were at once shrouded in smoke. I had my gun at a ready and was trying to peer under the smoke in order to get a sight of our enemies. Suddenly I heard some one in a highly excited tone calling to me from just in my rear,— "Stillwell! shoot! shoot! Why don't you shoot?" I looked around and saw that this command was being given by Bob Wylder, our second lieutenant, who was in his place just a few steps to the rear. He was a young man about twenty-five years old and was fairly wild with excitement, jumping up and down like a hen on a hot griddle. "Why, lieutenant," said I, "I can't see anything to shoot at." "Shoot, shoot, anyhow!" "All right," I responded, "if you say shoot, shoot it is;" and bringing my gun to my shoulder, I aimed low in the direction of the enemy, and blazed away through the smoke. I have always doubted if this, my first shot, did any execution—but there's no telling. Corporal Leander Stillwell 6<sup>th</sup> Illinois."



Sunday, 6 April dawned clear and bright, "**A most beautiful morning,**" recalls **Corporal Leander Stillwell** of the 6<sup>th</sup> Illinois. "**It really seems like Sunday in the country at home.**" The men had risen to take breakfast. "**We were busy polishing muskets and brushing up our boots for the Sunday morning inspection when we heard cannon booming around Shiloh Church followed by a low sullen continuous roar. There is no mistaking that sound; this is not a squad of pickets emptying their guns after being relieved of duty, it is the continuous roll of thousands of muskets and told us that battle is on.**" Rushing in to meet them is the **45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Regiment**: The 45th is a young unit that hasn't seen major action, they are now engaged in what will soon be some of the heaviest fighting at Shiloh, '**the bloodiest battle of the war.**'

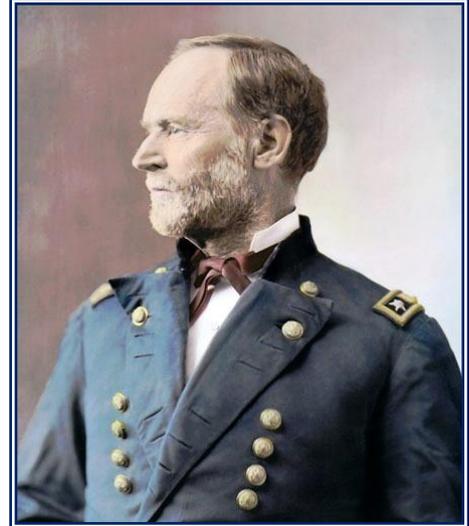
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/26561/26561-h/26561-h.htm>

**E**ncamped near *Shiloh*, *General Sherman* bore the brunt of the Confederate surprise attack. He'd been warned by scouts of unusual activity in the surrounding forest but chose to ignore them to his bad fortune. ***"I always acted on the supposition that we were an invading army; that our purpose was to move forward in force. We didn't fortify our camps against attack because we had no orders to do so and because such a course would have made our raw men timid."*** This is a pretty lame excuse for such a prominent figure, a man who had lost charge of *The Army of the Ohio* to Buell after suffering what amounted to a nervous breakdown. He later credits Grant with putting him 'back in the saddle' saying, ***"He stood by me when I was crazy and I stood by him when he was drunk."***

**I** find one comment by *Sherman* very telling, ***"We were an invading army."*** This reveals the true nature of the war in his mind and he's clearly admitting to an act of aggression and invasion of the South, not the defence of the North.

**S**herman couldn't hold his exposed position but in a fighting retreat, made oncoming Confederates pay dearly for the huge amount of ground they gained. One regiment, **6<sup>th</sup> Mississippi**, lost 300 of its 425 men in the furious charges that broke *Sherman's* ranks. Everywhere Federal divisions were reeling back. To the dismay of officers, some Confederates paused long enough to forage through abandoned camps, even eating meals freshly cooked and waiting for them. They hadn't eaten much on their long march from *Corinth* but sadly this had a tendency to slow the advance. ***"There was an abundance of prepared food,"*** says one Tennessee soldier who also discovers a woman in the camp. ***"Caring for her son she begged for mercy. I told her we were not out to hurt women or children, only armed men."***

**D**ead and wounded Federals littered the ground, another Confederate described the gory scene, ***"They were mangled in every conceivable form, some were in the last agonies of death. I couldn't pass a wounded man without saying, 'God have mercy on him.'"*** Confederate forces succeeded in driving *Sherman's* army nearly back as far as the **Tennessee River**, it was almost a complete rout however men from **Gen. Benjamin Prentiss'** Division hold a defensive position along an old country lane. *General Johnston* and many of his subordinates were advocates of full on frontal assaults. Rebel infantrymen made 12 charges against *Prentiss'* position without much success, so *Johnston* decides to try and turn the Yankee army's left flank, being held by the **4th Division Army of the Tennessee** with **Brig. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut** in command.



General William Tecumseh Sherman

**H**urlbut lined up his two brigades in an orchard, holding that position until at least 1:30 p.m. when *Breckinridge's* **"Reserve Corps"** was thrown into battle. *Johnston* and Tennessee Gov. *Isham G. Harris* were in the area exhorting soldiers and planning a major push through the *Peach Orchard*.

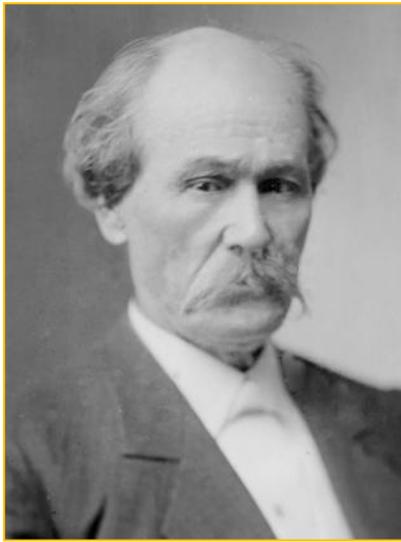


A Confederate artillery unit indicative of those serving at Shiloh.

**T**he young **45th Tennessee** was struck with very heavy fire from *Hurlbut's* Division and became disorganized falling back to a ravine near the *Peach Orchard*. Both *Breckinridge* and Gov. *Harris* try to rally the troops who flatly refuse to move ahead as a unit; under these conditions who could blame them. At 2 p.m., when the big push is set to begin, an agitated *Breckinridge* gallops up to *Johnston* saying, ***"I cannot get the men to make a charge."*** To which *Johnston* replies ***"Then I will help you,"***

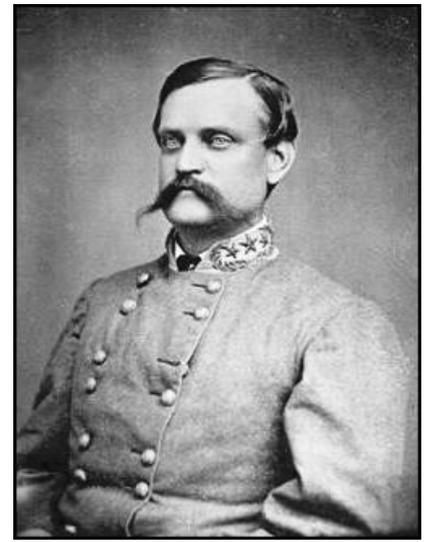
**G**eneral *Johnston* rode courageously to the ravine and all along the **45th's** front line, carrying a tin cup that he'd picked up in *Prentiss'* camp, *Johnston* rode along tapping the regiment's fixed bayonets with his tin cup. ***"These will do the work men,"*** he said with determination, ***"they are stubborn; so we must use the bayonet."*** There is a myth that bayonets were not used much in the war; in reality the more you research, the more you discover bayonet attacks are an

integral part of strategic thinking. They were exceptional tools to employ as the enemy was reloading. Concerned the attack was bogging down *Johnston* rode forward to move things along and on the way discovered large numbers of injured men, many being captured Federals. *Johnston* left his staff surgeon behind to care for them ordering, ***“Look after these wounded people, the Yankees among the rest, they were our enemies a moment ago, they are our prisoners now.”***



Governor Isham Harris

**J**ohnston, accompanied by *Breckinridge* rode out of the ravine leading a successful charge but success came at a heavy price. Unknowing *Johnston* had been mortally wounded; his surgeon was caring for the enemy on his commanders instructions. An old duelling wound had removed the feeling from his leg and the General didn't realize he'd been wounded. A minié ball struck him behind the knee lacerating his femoral artery, bleeding heavily into his high-top riding boot, *Johnston* bled to death in minutes with his staff unable to help him. Unknown to *Governor Harris* and others on the scene, *Johnston* had a tourniquet in his pocket that might well have saved his life had it been applied and if his surgeons had been with him.



Gen. John C. Breckinridge

**W**ho fired the stray bullet that struck *Johnston*? It was a .58-caliber Enfield minié ball of a type used by both North and South at *Shiloh*, it is the type of question that plagues Americans but concerns us little. Contemporary history attributes the fatal wound to a ***“Parthian Shot”*** fired by *Hurlbut's* retreating troops. ***“Parthian Shot”*** links to a strategy once used to great effect by ancient *Parthian* warriors of Iraq. Pretending to retreat, they would lure the enemy close, then turn and shoot their bows. Time corrupted the term commonly used even today, into the phrase ***“Parting Shot.”*** Popular *Civil War* historian ***Wiley Sword*** wrote that evidence supports the fatal shot being friendly fire from the *45th Tennessee*, the unit that went on to fight with distinction until the end of the war. This is hypothesis, no one can possibly know and it's not really important in the overall picture as bullets were flying everywhere. *Shiloh* was set to be a decisive victory for the South but because momentum was lost, the enemy wasn't driven into the river and the South camped the night aiming to do battle and finish it the following morning but paddle steamers brought up reinforcements and in the morning it was the South's turn to be on the run. *General Beauregard* had been reluctant to finish the job and for this he would pay dearly and be withdrawn from active service to command coastal defences in ***South Carolina, Georgia and Florida*** until the end of the war, replacing ***Major General John C. Pemberton*** who was transferred to ***Vicksburg, Mississippi***.



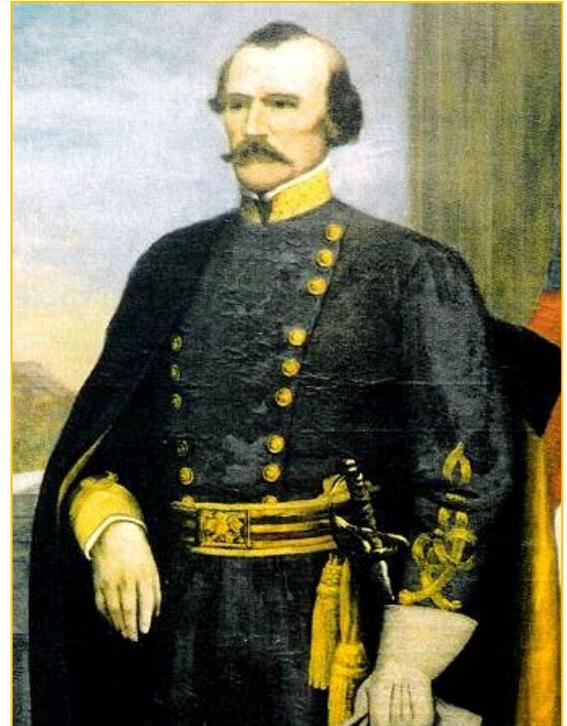
In this fierce battle, through gunshot and political intrigue, the South lost two of its most important Generals; when *Johnston* fell from the saddle so did the hopes of the South but **General Lee** was waiting in the wings with his 'right arm' **General Stonewall Jackson**. Remarkable things were yet to be achieved that would soon knock an over confident North back on its heels.

In Union records *Shiloh*, was initially known as *Pittsburg Landing*, it proved to be the costliest battle in the *Civil War* to date. While more casualties were inflicted at *Shiloh* than in all of America's previous wars combined, it was *Beauregard* who officially reported 1,728 killed, 8,012 wounded, and 959 missing, a total of 10,699, I believe this to be a conservative figure. The Southern populace was horror-stricken by the immense suffering as *Corinth*, along with numerous other *Mississippi* and *West Tennessee* communities becoming vast hospitals. I mentioned earlier that recorded Federal losses for Grant's and Buell's armies were higher with 1,754 killed, 8,408 wounded, and 2,885 missing, a total of 13,047. Union soldiers across the battlefield recorded numerous grisly sights. An officer of the 6th Ohio counted 126 Confederates dead in a strip of land fifty yards wide and a quarter of a mile long. Eleven of them, evidently skirmishers, had fallen in front of the line. A burial detail in *McCook's* division interred 147 Southerners in a trench, including three Lieutenant Colonels and four Majors.

Perhaps the greatest impact of *Shiloh* was the way in which people of the divided nation were to view the war. For the first time both sides became aware of the magnitude of conflict and photographer *Alexander Gardner* drove the point home with his vivid images. Alexander we now know, manipulated corpses on the field and carried an array of props to adorn them with and many pictures, we are very familiar with, were manipulated and dressed up because he was always late on the battlefield, for obvious reasons; it was a very dangerous place. He would drag an arm from here and put it there, add a rifle and a water canteen to get a desired effect.



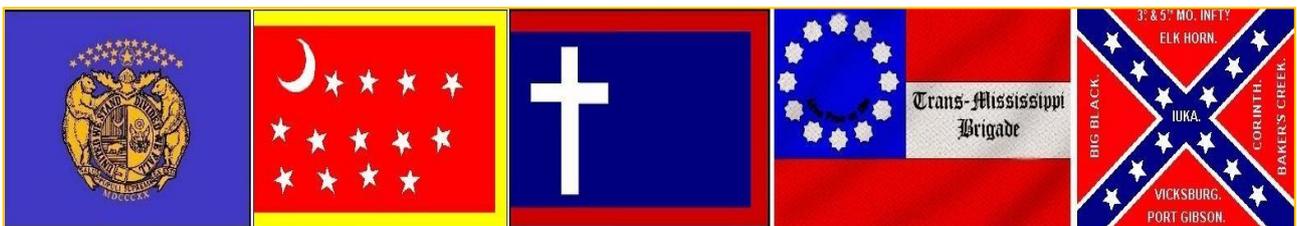
.58 cal minié balls



General Albert Sydney Johnston

At *Shiloh* both combatants had conducted successful military movements and performed massive troop concentrations using steam to power trains and riverboats. Over two hundred thousand soldiers were conveyed over long distances, some were migrants from other countries such as Germany, Ireland, Scotland, England and France. All the animals needed for the campaign and tons of supplies were carried across vast regions of the western theatre with few roads. War operations had grown national in scope and as it progressed would quickly become International as field armies swelled in size and conducted military campaigns over even greater distances. After *Shiloh* the vast numbers of volunteer soldiers and their officers were no longer raw recruits but battle-hardened veterans, having experienced all the horrors of war.

Each side, to some measure, had been successful; each experiencing great difficulty and failure, there now appeared to be no immediate end to the troubling conflict. Before *Shiloh*, U. S. Grant believed Rebels in the West could be finished off quickly, in one last great action. After the battle he gave up all ideas of saving the Union with anything other than complete conquest. The war would continue for three more bloody years but after *Shiloh*, it would be different and increasingly bloody even stretching to the high seas. There are legends yet to be told as our Sesqui-centennial timescale unfolds on this true "*War of the World.*"



The true 'Flags of Our Fathers' held above American soil and Southern dead, all soldiers of the World.





## JACK FORD'S 2012 OUTLINE

It's planned that we will have a guest speaker at every meeting this year except the June Annual General Meeting. This will offer ten speakers with each allocated an hour from 7.30 PM and the remaining half hour of the meeting given over to club business. In 2010, we had a guest speaker at 9 out of 10 meetings with meetings closing around 9PM.

On Monday 26 March, the ACWRTQ hosts a presentation by its second-ever overseas guest speaker - US historian Michael (Mike) Priest. (See *this issue of The Bugle*.) Mike has written a number of books about the Civil War and conducts guided tours of battlefields. As his talk is being advertised widely amongst numerous living historian and shooter clubs, it is to be held at the larger venue of the National Rifle Association clubhouse situated at the Belmont Rifle Range; food and bar facilities are available.

Allowing for pre-talk meetings, question time, plus after-talk drinks and an opportunity to meet the guest speaker, the event has a start time of 7 PM but must finish by 11 PM. It's hoped that Mike Priest will supply a signed copy of his book, which we'll be offered as a raffle prize.

For Living Historians, there will be **History Alive** on June and the **Multicultural Festival at Esk** at the end of July. There **may** be a **Mrs Beeton's Grand Picnic** event for 19th Century Living History groups in May, possibly to be held at the Ripley Rifle Range. The ACWRTQ will be doing another grave re-dedication ceremony for a confirmed Union veteran buried at Toowong Cemetery. We have also been invited to assist in commemorating another Union Veteran who has been found buried in faraway Winton Cemetery.

Our Editor, Robert Taylor will continue to produce bi-monthly editions of *The Bugle* resulting in 6 colour issues containing up to 20 pages this year. He invites contributions in the form of stories or opinions based on local or international studies. There will be the usual regular emails about Civil War books for sale by mail-order in Australia, new books published in the US, Living History items for sale and interstate events plus information on 150th Anniversary celebrations of events during the Civil War as they occurred in 1862.

ACWRTQ Website: Secretary Andrew Munro and I have been creating the new club website. Over 200 photos covering club activities from 1999 to 2011 have been scanned. The website should be available soon and posted in *The Bugle*.

This year the club's valuable and large Gettysburg diorama ***In God's Hands*** will be enhanced for public display. The December Christmas BBQ will be held at a Museum site in Brisbane so that a tour of the Museum will be part of the overall Christmas Party. This worked well in 2007 when we had the club Christmas Party at ***Newstead Park & House***. **ACWRTQ membership fees are due. WHAT TO PAY: \$20 for individual members: \$30 for families (You will need to supply names of all individuals covered by Family Membership).**

**HOW TO PAY? ( Our 4 Life Members should ignore this bit): It's as easy as 1-2-3.**

**1) Give your fees to the Treasurer (me) at any club meeting. I will be in attendance at the next ACWRTQ meeting.**

**2) Post a cheque or Money Order that is made out to: The ACWRTQ & then send it to this address: ACWRTQ, 7 Station Avenue, Northgate, 4013.**

**3) Visit your nearest Bank of Queensland (BOQ) or use your computer to do direct payment to BOQ. To do either, you will need the ACWRTQ account numbers that I can provide you with personally.**

**REMEMBER:** According to the constitution, membership fees are due to be paid by the January ACWRTQ meeting **BUT** you are not declared an unfinancial club member (and lose all club benefits) until you fail to renew your membership by 31 March.

**IT'S GOING TO BE A BIG YEAR FOR THE ACWRTQ**



## BRISBANE REPORTS THE CIVIL WAR

By Jack Ford

**B**risbane's first newspaper *The Moreton Bay Courier* changed its name to *The Courier* in 1861. The newspaper had begun as a weekly publication on 20 June 1846, just four years after the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement closed and free settlers arrived in Queensland. By December 1859 it had become a tri-weekly newspaper. Brisbane alderman **Thomas Blacket Stephens** bought *The Moreton Bay Courier* in May 1861. He instituted the name change to reflect that his newspaper was to have a daily print-run. *The Courier* was first sold on 14 May 1861, when North Carolina celebrated the election of delegates to its state convention to decide on secession and the second day of Baltimore, Maryland's occupation by Union troops led by Brigadier General Benjamin Franklin Butler.



Mortimer Thomson

The last issue was on 9 April 1864 when it was renamed *The Brisbane Courier*. This article (*in quotation marks and unaltered in its original spelling and grammar*) appeared in the Monday 7 April issue of *The Courier* in 1862, the year Stephens was elected Mayor of Brisbane: -

## **“THE NEW ZOUAVE TACTICS Observed by Doestics, P.B.**

Now the Zouaves are all very well; but fellows who join just to have the privilege of wearing red trousers, and jackets with shiny buttons on, under the idea that this is of a soldier's life will, most likely, find themselves mistaken. We want nobody in our corps who isn't strong, well-built, and able-bodied; for we expect, when the fighting really does commence, that we shall have to do the most of it, and the hardest of it, - so you fellows who have sent us word that you are coming had better think better of it, and either stay at home, or get well up in your gymnastics before you show yourselves in Washington. Why, you'd hardly believe it, but we had forty recruits offered last Saturday, and there were more than half of them that couldn't lift a thousand pounds a-piece, three of them couldn't jump but twenty-eight feet high, five of them couldn't throw the commonest double-double summersault without taking off their knapsacks and laying down their muskets, and one fellow presented himself who positively couldn't walk on his hands and carry his sword bayonet between his toes. Such lamentable ignorance of the very first requirements of Zouave practice can hardly be believed.

We are getting along pretty well in our drilling now, and we ought soon to be proficient; for we have had twenty-one hours' drill a day for the past three days. We get along speedily in our peculiar tactics for the application of gymnastics to military purposes.

Elsworth has introduced some entirely new features into his system. For instance, every man has now to carry, strapped to his knapsack, a small plate of boiler iron, about the size of an old-fashioned dripping-pan. These plates are ball-proof, and are used in making what we call the "Zouave fort." This ingenious structure is formed in this way:- Rows of men stand on the ground in the required outline of the fort; other fellows stand on their shoulders, and all, as they stand side by side, interlock their plates of boiler-iron, so as to form a ball-proof surface toward the enemy - embrasures and loop-holes are left at the proper intervals, of course. Columbiads and rifled cannon are at once mounted in the embrasures, and the rifle corps take their stations at the loopholes, and in a few minutes we can pepper our enemy all to pieces.

Sometimes we mount a few barbette guns on the shoulders of the fellows in the top row; but we had rather not do this, as it exposes the gunners, and holding six rows of men, with their arms, ammunition and fortplates, with three of our heavy guns, is considered enough of a load for the lower row of men to carry, without the extra weight of barbette guns.

As it is, some of the lower row of fellows have to hold a weight of two tons and a half, which they can do for five hours without flinching. At the end of that time, however, the Colonel finds that he must give his fort a lunch, or else it begins to get weak in the lower story.

You can see at once the tremendous advantage of having a fort that you can erect in four minutes in the very teeth of the enemy—a fort, every stone of which can fight—a fort that can't be stormed, and that can be taken down and set up in another place the very instant the enemy bring any heavy guns to bear on it. We are training a set of men now for the lower story, who shall be able to run with the new-fashioned edifice on their backs for the distance of a mile and a half.

Imagine the utter astonishment of an enemy at seeing a strong fort deliberately pick itself up, and with a hurrah, run over into the very heart of their lines, and there open its batteries on them at a yard and a half's distance.

Imagine the consternation of a storming party, on getting their scaling-ladders all ready for a determined rush over the wall of a fort, to see the fort suddenly drop all to pieces, and each particular stone transform itself into a stalwart soldier, with a sword bayonet in his hands, a pair of revolvers in his belt, and a long knife between his teeth. And then imagine, if such a thing be possible, one regiment surrounded by a crowd of exulting enemies, who think to butcher the "pet lambs" at their leisure, how it would astound the enemies aforesaid to see the "lambs" instantly make themselves ready to hold out against a fortnight's siege.

Very well these are just the things we hope soon to do.

That your readers may have an idea of the style of drill we go through, I'll tell you. We get up at two in the morning, and have sunmer set drill for two hours by squads, then by companies, and then by regimental line, and turn fourteen sunmersets forward, and fourteen backward, to the tap of the drum, keeping exact time, loading and firing revolving rifles at a target as we come forward; and firing at another target as we go back, with a revolver in each hand. If any balls are found more than an inch and a-half from the centre, the man is discovered, and put on columbiad for the whole day; this means keeping guard all day with two ten inch columbiads tied across his shoulders.

After sunmer set drill, we have jumping and firing in the air by platoons for two hours. At the word of command, the platoon jump thirty-three feet straight up, firing at an object fifty yards in advance the instant they reach their extreme altitude. This sort of practice, the Colonel thinks, will be remarkably useful in firing at an enemy concealed behind breastworks.

Then we have breakfast. Each man's breakfast is put in his haversack, and hung round his neck, and he has thirty minutes allowed him to eat in; during that time he must run five miles and walk two miles and a-half, jumping twenty-seven ditches, each forty-six feet four inches wide. Then we have fort drill for six hours; then one hour for dinner, which is eaten while each

man is standing on his head. Then two hours' running, during which time every man is expected to accomplish from thirty to fifty miles, according to the weight he carries. A man who runs light, with only his knapsack, rifle, ammunition, and his tent, must do his fifty miles; but the fellows who carry the ordnance are let off a few miles. A man with a mountain howitzer must run forty-seven and a half miles. A fellow with a full sized brass six-pounder has to get over his thirty-nine miles, while the half-dozen men who carry our heavy columbiads are let off with but thirty miles apiece.

Then we have a few hours of general gymnastics and feats of strength, the principal ones of which are, "pitching the howitzer" and "putting up the columbiad." Some of the men can pitch an old iron six-pounder we have for that purpose three quarters of a mile, though the general average is not more than half a mile and a few yards over. There's not a man in the regiment who can't "put up" a ten-inch columbiad in each hand, like a pair of dumbbells.

After gymnastics we have our new fort drill till midnight, when we are detained for guard and "gallows duty."

This last is another new feature of the Elsworth tactics. It is an invention for the benefit of secessionists. In case of a capture of spies or other obnoxious vermin, seven men are detained to form a gallows, which they do in the following manner:- Three fellows stand on each others' shoulders for one post; three other fellows stand on each others' shoulders for the other post; then one very tall Zouave lays himself across the shoulders of the two top men, for the beam: then they reeve a rope through the waistband of the beam's trousers, and hang the spy in the most approved style. It is estimated that this kind of gallows will be very useful in a sandy country, where there are no trees to hang your prisoners to.

By this slight account, you will perceive that if you are going to send any new Zouave recruits, they must be men of the right sort. After one month from to-day the Colonel won't take any man who can't lift two tons and a half, run twenty-seven miles without

stopping for breath, jump over an ordinary two storey house, and swim a mile and a quarter under water.

It would be better, also, for him to have some preliminary practice in our new way of repelling a charge of cavalry, which is to disarm your dragoon, tie his legs under his horse's belly with his sword-belt, and the take him, horse and all, under your arm, and run to the rear with him.

If you've got any men of this sort, you may send them along early, for we have still, for such fellows, a few more places left.

I get time to write this letter, having been excused from drill by the colonel, on account of Simpson's dropping the 11-inch columbiad on my left big toe, this morning. Simpson always was a clumsy rascal. Fiercely,

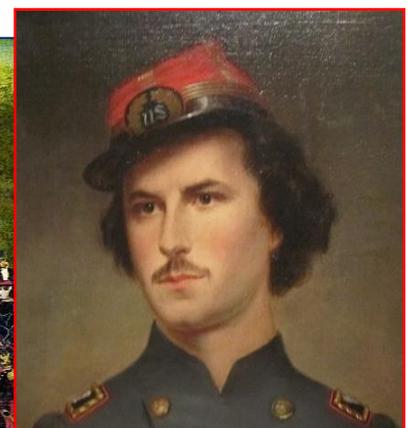
Q.K. PHILANDER DOESTICKS, P.B."

Jack Ford comments: - This silly, tongue-in-cheek article was written by Michigan humourist and journalist Mortimer Thomson (1832-1875) who wrote under various noms de deplume. While he produced mainly satire, he did write an influential piece on the Savannah, Georgia slave trade for the *Tribune* newspaper in 1859. Thomson's article became very popular with the abolitionist movement and was reproduced as a pamphlet distributed by the U.S. Anti-Slavery Society. Elsworth (misspelt) was Colonel Elijah E. Ellsworth who, before the war, had gained fame as the commander of the flamboyant U.S. Zouave Cadets. This unit became a national-champion drill team, noted for its acrobatic manoeuvres with their muskets and bayonets. Ellsworth had died long before Thomson wrote this piece. Ellsworth was shot at Alexandria Virginia by innkeeper James W. Jackson on 24 May 1861 while seizing the Confederate flag flying from Jackson's 'Marshall House'. Ellsworth was the first Union officer fatality and so became a national martyr. Ironically, on the same page of *The Courier* where this joke article appeared, was a genuine notice that sought recruits for Captain T. Vokes Dudgeon's No.1 Company of the Queensland Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Source: Tennessee State Library and Archives

<http://tnsos.org/tsla/imagesearch/citation.php?ImageID=13487>

Colonel Ellsworth's champion team, perform before an audience of local militiamen in Utica, New York in July 1860. Many New Yorkers carried a personal grudge on to the battle field where they were determined to settle the matter over Ellsworth's death. Enflamed passions were to lead them into the chaos of 'Bull Run.'



Colonel Elijah Ellsworth



## MELBOURNE SYMPOSIUM

By ACWRTQ Correspondent John Duncan

**E**arly on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> John King and myself travelled to Melbourne for a conference and symposium held at the Celtic Club. We arrived about five minutes late but the talk being given was halted and John and I received a big welcome. The opening talk was “*Confederate Diplomacy*,” or it could have been on the ineptitude and lack of diplomacy. All early attempts were well covered and the concept of sending political enemies as ambassadors was argued well. This is an area in which Confederate recognition failed right at the start and seemed to stay down. The high points, not all that many, were also covered. For those who wonder why the South couldn’t gain recognition abroad, this talk was worth the trip alone. The speaker was *Mike Hall* who explained the subject even better in question time.

**W**e broke for coffee and John and I talked to the members, including four who were in Union uniform but who I talked to about our re- enacting in Queensland. I was also introduced to *Mike Priest* and talked over the mechanics of next Monday night and briefed him on our plans for his visit. By the time you are reading this you will know just how good he really is.

**N**ext up was *Byard Sheppard*: he spoke on the “*Reign of Iron*,” a naval revolution. We were treated to an incredible talk. People came to life for this, the whole of the Monitor and Virginia saga was traced out, the Navy yard fiasco, the designs of Brooke and Porter, emergence of the monitor, building of Virginia, the officers and men of the protagonists. The battle itself and the results of the engagement, were edge of the seat material, possibly the best talk I have ever listened to.

**D**ale Blair then discussed “*Jackson at Kernstown*.” He traced the scene and the early moves well, focussing on Jackson’s council of war (*something Jackson never did again*) and traced out the battle and time line of events: including most of the mistakes, as Jackson lost this battle. Dale explained how his moves had drawn away many Union forces that might have been used against Johnston, giving a strategic concept to Jackson’s whole campaign. A very well received talk perfectly spaced and reasoned

**A**fter lunch, where there was more inter branch discussion with *Jeff Yuile* and others, we were to hear Mike.

*Mike Priest* discussed the battles at “*South Mountain*.” His knowledge of the battle and how he reworked the maps from actual evidence gained walking the battle-fields, was astounding. His talk on the topography of the three battles fought, eliminated the images of South Mountain contained in my imagination. I am writing this before I have heard Monday night’s talk in Queensland, I cannot wait to hear *Mike* speak again.

**T**he next speaker was *Warren Ellem*, on the “*Emancipation Proclamation*,” effects were widespread and *Warren* showed the skill employed in its introduction and results, both in the US and overseas. An extremely well- reasoned argument that covered aspects of slavery not commonly known. I feel it would be an interesting talk for our members to hear as the arguments over the progression of this legislature reflect the conflict well.

**C**hris Hookey was the final speaker and his topic was “*The Battle of Perryville*.” Once again this didn’t fail in any way and was an extremely good talk. *Chris* conveyed the divergence of *Bragg, Smith, Van Dorn & Price* and their failure to concentrate that cost the Confederacy any chance for gain from this campaign. The battle itself and the conflict between *Bragg & Polk* was better described than I have ever heard. *Chris* finalised his talk with the results of the battle and its effect on the invasion of Kentucky, so well done that only two questions were put to the speaker.

**J**ohn King and I then had drinks with *Dale Jeff and Mike*, before having to catch the cream truck home. I regret that we could not stay for Dinner but the fellowship of this Round Table event was the best day I have ever had in regards to the history of the American Civil war.



## QUEENSLAND GUEST SPEAKER MIKE PRIEST

**M**onday 26 March 2012 Mike Priest flew up to Queensland to address an enthusiastic group of *Civil War* enthusiasts in an event held

at the Belmont Rifle Association club rooms in Brisbane. Mike's flight was organised by the ACWRTQ Inc and the venue was kindly made available by the Queensland Rifle Association (QRA) on Monday night. ACWRTQ members Peter 'Pops' Alexander, Greg Noonan and yours truly had decorated the hall with flags, bunting and Civil War artefacts that were placed on a table by various members and in the background we heard recorded music from the era performed by two highly recommended American artists **Wayne Erbsen's** album *'Ballads & Songs of the Civil War'* and a member of the *Daughters of the Confederacy* **Lisa Meyer** from her album *'Voices Hushed and Still.'*



The diorama with a display of local veterans who died in Queensland and a captivated audience.

A main feature of the evening's display was the *Gettysburg* diorama *"In God's Hands"* crafted by two Queensland brothers **Alan and Gary Woodfield**. It depicts the very moment of *Pickett's Charge* that was the subject of *Mike Priest's* talk. The brothers created the diorama in a garage in **Bundaberg Queensland** over a period of 4 years using 900 figures at 54 mm complete with all equipment, horses and field guns. *Mike* noted the stretcher bearers and commented this diorama is far better than anything on display back in America. He could see instantly the attention to detail as the *Woodfield* brothers had created the diorama using diaries of those who took part on that fateful day. The diorama has more than 5 thousand men individually painted in a diminishing scale to obtain a perfect perspective so that the background mural merges seamlessly into the foreground.

The diorama was the perfect backdrop to *Mike's* talk on the famed charge. Step by step he took us onto the battlefield and in the process destroyed some of the myths. ***"No drums were played as they stepped off, as portrayed in the film 'Gettysburg,' When you look at the individuals involved you start to see the battle in a different light. I actually measured the battle field and was surprised to find the various bronze markers are exactly where they are supposed be."*** *Mike* indicates that these men just didn't walk blindly into chaos, many found little safe havens on the battlefield and decided it better to stay there rather than march on into certain death. Some collapsed with heat before even reaching the *'Killing Zone,'* the temperatures were soaring that day and men, deprived of water, just toppled over with sun stroke. ***"The casualty figures given after the battle are now subject to much scrutiny and while Confederate losses are fairly accurate we will never know the true figure of Union casualties,"*** says *Mike*, ***"but certainly we are revising the casualty list down considerably."***

In his talk *Mike* took us up to the **Stone Wall** in *'Rank and File'* and then reeling back treading over the fallen bodies. He described the effect of grape or canister in the **Corn Field** where the crop was cut to the ground like a scythe and rows of men standing there in their ranks vanished, leaving behind only rows of boots amongst the corn stubble where once they stood. This is bringing the war into a realistic and horrifying light. ***"Men who wouldn't go forward after***

*seeing those in front toppled were not cowards,” he says, “they just proved they were ordinary human beings like you and me.”* Some found trenches to hide in, some just a depression in the land but the topography played a big part in the battle. *“Many couldn’t see what was ahead over a low ridge and when they stepped above it they were greeted with the awful sight of a row of artillery and men behind a stone wall just waiting to see the whites of their eyes.”*

Question times towards the end of the first half of the night and at the end of the talk, produced a bevy of questions that fuelled the discussion further. Some 54 people attended the evening, that was free to interested parties and a free supper was served at half time provided by *John Duncan’s* wife *Carmel* and my wife *Anne* who baked some meat rolls and cheese scones. *Mike* offered one of his books on *Gettysburg* to be raffled, he also sold autographed copies. Some members donated prizes for the raffle, that was the only fund raising to off set high costs. Another book was donated by *Greg Noonan*, *Civil War* chess set by *Robert Taylor* and a number of battlefield



preservation caps by *Jack Ford*. It was a good evening, enjoyed by all and *Mike* certainly enthused the group with his talk and no doubt inspired the *Civil War* buffs amongst us to dig deeper into the topic and look beyond the commonly accepted versions of the battle. *“The trouble with many historians,”* *Mike* says. *“is that when they discover something that happened in history that doesn’t fit their concept of the battle, they simply ignore it and leave it out, instead of looking closer at the event to try and understand why and how it happened.”* *Mike* goes beyond standard reference sources and takes the history back onto the battlefield even with a tape measure, to pace out each event and determine more accurately the circumstances around it and why it turned out the way it did. 150 years later we are at long last beginning to get the facts, the real story involving real flesh and blood people, no different to ourselves.

The centenary celebration in the 1960’s stirred up the present interest in the war and in *Robert’s* speech as M.C. he said, *“Let’s hope the Sesqui centennial will do the same to a new generation.”* **The Editor.**

## JOHN DUNCAN’S ACCOUNT OF THE TALK



**B**oy did *Mike Priest* cause a hit at the lecture. An enthused crowd of 54 sat rapt through *Mike’s* two part talk, poor *Mike* earned his supper as the audience questioned him on many different aspects of *Picket’s* charge. With *Brenda Ford* assisting with the Computer Images, *Mike* took us thru tactics, exposed myths about the forces and leaders, all the time, keeping the talk moving along with on the spot topography and an almost total recall of the minute by minute progression of events. *Mike* explained how he had actually measured

the battlefield and did his calculations. He exploded myths with every jab of the pointer. Then, with logic unassailable, he reinforced his theories with a series of facts that was both convincing and thought provoking. By the end of the first half *Mike* was asked many questions which he answered with yet again different facts to clear up hazy points



During the interval *Mike* was overwhelmed by the attention of the audience, so much that he was only saved from hunger pains by his designated **ADC Greg Noonan**. The entire group was introduced to *Mike* except for **Old George** from the MHSA, whom *Mike* wished to meet. *Mike* told me how proud he was to meet a veteran of **Bomber Command**

The second half moved into a race for the stone wall and *Mike* detailed the positions and the moves, with insight well supported by his research on the battlefield itself. The final questions focussed mostly on casualties and where they occurred. In answer to one final question *Mike* praised the commander of the Federal artillery. He also offered many insights into **Pickett, Longstreet and Lee**. His opinion on the cavalry battle during **Pickett's** charge as being irrelevant to the battle of **Gettysburg** has ended that argument on this continent

*Mike* received a very sustained round of applause and the evening ended with much talk by members over the points given. Drinks flowed and all ended well. The night was aided by **Robert Taylor, Jack Ford, Peter Alexander, Shane Hirdsfield, Harley & Evie, O'Hirn, Darryl Kube, Trace Scaff, John King, Dave Alexandr, Aidan Smith, Nicky Duff and Jann Golding.**

We had Members of the rifle clubs who came to increase their knowledge of this period as well as the **Black Powder Shooters Association** including **Beno Groothoff** and also members of the

general public who had seen the event advertised. Of course we never would have succeeded without the backing and generosity of the **Queensland Rifle Association**. A special vote of thanks was given to the manager of the QRA Club **Mr Lee Jamieson**. His efforts will never be forgotten by members of the ACWRTQ, nothing was too much trouble for "**Jamo**" and the success of the night may well be attributed to him.



I think the visit of *Mike Priest* was a great success, we built on the start given by the **ACWRTA** Symposium and our thanks go to **Jeff, Barry, Dale** and others, for allowing us to join with them in this enterprise. I will close with the mention that we owe to **Jack**, as event's organiser, **Robert** as our MC and to **Greg Noonan** who was the first to say to me "**Please go ahead with this John**" and **Andrew Munro** a great debt of gratitude.

All pictures in this article were by Robert Taylor except the assembled riflemen at the beginning from a re-enactment at Shiloh last year and the last picture of *Mike*, courtesy Greg Noonan. [jduncan308@gmail.com](mailto:jduncan308@gmail.com)



Sunset on field artillery at Shiloh, 150 years later



### Recommended Internet Sites:

The 290 Foundation is a site recommended to our readers. You will learn much from visiting this site especially regarding the Confederate Navy and Commander Bulloch. I have found the site and its administrators to be very friendly, welcoming and always willing to help. They take the name from Hull #290, being the number for a ship that would become C.S.S. *Alabama*.

<https://sites.google.com/site/290foundation/membership>

<https://sites.google.com/site/290foundation/home-1>

Other sites worthy of regular visits

<http://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/>



Editor:

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**Meetings: Coorparoo RSL. Third Thursday of the month. 7.30PM.**

**All Welcome**