

# THE FUGELMAN



## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE---THE IRON BRIGADE

1861-1865

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VOLUME XXIII      ISSUE 2      FEBRUARY, 2014

**FU-GEL-MAN: A well-drilled soldier placed in front of a military company as a model or guide for others.**

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## PASS IN REVIEW

*From the quill of Lt. Colonel Pete Seielstad*

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**Thanks to all who attended our annual meeting and to those who were elected to positions within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Association. I look forward to working with you as I continue my service as your Lieutenant Colonel. Thanks for your support and I may be asking for more as we prepare for the upcoming year.**

**There were some changes to the By-Laws. These were discussed and decided upon in order for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin to be better represented on the field and in other decisions that affect the unit.**



**We have officially adopted an appropriate emblem to represent who we are. It is the early version of the Iron Brigade badge that we are familiar with. The five regiments of the Iron Brigade are identified at the outer elements of the emblem and the center has crossed cannon, the letter B and the number 4, which honor battery B of the 4<sup>th</sup> US Artillery.**

**A few items need to be addressed as we prepare for the Overland Campaign in Spotsylvania this year. Be sure to keep updated via the web site, Fugelman or your company officers. There is on-line registration for individuals and the cost is \$20.00 before April 1<sup>st</sup>. The affiliation for Black Hat Battalion members, as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin, is located under USA Military Affiliation, check the OTHER box. Darrel Markijohn (Federal Commander) knows we are coming and will place us in the Iron Brigade for the event. For forms and information check the web site at [150spotsylvania.com](http://150spotsylvania.com) you will be required to sign a waiver and you should carry a medical form on you during the event.**

**As you know, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Association will be chartering a bus and you will need to sign up for that as well. Contact Dave Seilski at:**

**dseilski@greenbay.gannet.com. There are deadlines to be met so don't squander time and not get yourself registered or your deposit in.**

**Begin to check your uniform and equipment for the season. You all know the drill: clean, repair or replace.**

**The uniform & equipment requirements for us in the Overland Campaign are as follows: U.S. Pattern 1858 Dress Hat (including a small occurrence dress hat ornamentation & the addition of a 1-7/8 inch red worsted wool 1<sup>st</sup> Corps Badge; or no dress hat ornamentation at all.), Jefferson Bootees, Civilian or Issue Shirt, Fatigue Blouse (in majority) or Dress (Frock) Coat, Sky Blue Issue Trousers, Civilian Suspenders, Federal Issue or Civilian Drawers, Federal Issue leather accouterments, U.S. Pattern 1858 Smooth-side Canteen with linen straps, U.S. Issue Knapsack, U.S. Issue Rubber Blanket, U.S Issue Blanket, U.S. Foot Pattern Overcoat, & Shelter Halves.**

**Musket: Pattern 1854 Austrian Lorenz .54 Caliber Rifle- Musket. *NOTE: By order of Lt. Col. Seielstad Pattern 1861 or 1863 US Springfield 58 Caliber rifled musket or Pattern 1858 English Enfield 58 caliber rifled musket are acceptable. This order will accommodate those who have not been issued the Austrian Lorenz musket.***

**Prepare rations for three days: 24-30 hard crackers, 2 ¼ lb. pork or bacon, one cup roasted coffee (whole or ground) and 1 ¾ cup brown sugar. In camp, add: 2.4 oz. of beans or peas, 0.6 oz. of salt, 0.64 oz. soap and 0.2 oz. candles to the marching ration, per day. Apples, dried fruit, desiccated vegetables, onions, corn meal, rice, red potatoes, soft bread, tea, sweet potatoes. Also appropriate are foraging items as well as gifts from home.**

**I am not familiar with the terrain or the campsite for this event. Best thing to do is to start walking, pack light, and come prepared for anything. Best thing to pack is a good attitude. Officers should work on company drill within the battalion framework, except the countermarch. We have practiced countermarching in excess at Gettysburg and I don't plan on doing that again.**

**Your obedient servant,**

**Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad**

## **THE ASSOCIATION OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF JANE LYNCH**

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**As this editor puts virtual pen to paper for the second month in a row it is his sad duty to announce the passing of a family member of one of the Association's family. Jane Lynch passed away around the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. Jane Lynch was Pat Lynch's mother (and Patricia Lynch's mother-in-law). Most of us in the Regiment know Patrick and what a great person he is. He is a long time member of Company K and served as the Regiment's Sergeant Major. Many of us also know Patricia from her work with the Reclaiming Our Heritage event in Milwaukee and her work with the West Side Soldiers' Aid Society. Pat and Patricia are very special people and we extend our sincerest condolences on the loss of Jane V. Lynch.**

**Like many in Company K, this editor had a couple of opportunities to engage with "Miss Jane" as he referred to her. The first time was at a Company K dinner and dance. I had the wonderful experience of sitting and visiting with Jane during the evening. Her smile was infectious. She was a good conversationalist and it was easy to love her from the git-go. During the evening Frank Medina (a member of the Company and a band member playing for the dance) went over and told Jane that he wanted to dedicate a song to her and asked her to pick one. She did (the editor does not remember the song she picked) and her reaction was sweet and gentle. The next opportunity was during a wedding rededication celebration by Tim and Sandy Grover. I had an extended opportunity to sit and visit with Jane. She was so lively, laughed easily and thoroughly enjoyed the event.**

**This view of Jane is one that many in Company K would have shared (and has shared). Jane Lynch was a gentle spirit and a lovely lady and many will surely miss her. On behalf of all the members of the Second Wisconsin we offer our prayers for healing and sustenance by our Lord for the family members. We share your sorrow, but more so we share the memories of a gracious woman who left her mark on many of us.**

# **EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY FOR GARY VAN KAUWENBERGH & HIS FAMILY**

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***The Fugelman* has learned of the passing of a family member of another of our members. Gary Van Kauwenbergh's mother passed way. Gary has been a good friend to this newsletter and on a monthly basis provides numerous items for inclusion in the newsletter. Gary is also a hard working leader of our skirmishers. This editor is sure he speaks for many of our members who know Gary, and those who simply count him as a valued comrade, when he, on behalf of the Association, extends our condolences on his and his family's loss!**

**The following is the obituary published on his mother:**



**EAU CLAIRE-Gladys M. Van Kauwenbergh, age 84, a longtime resident of Eau Claire, died after a short illness at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wis. on Jan. 8, 2014.**

**She was born May 17, 1929, in Green Bay, the daughter of Joseph and Edith (nee Haney) DeBauche. She was a graduate of Green Bay East High School. She married Harold J. Van Kauwenbergh in 1952. Gladys and Harold lived in Green Bay, LaCrosse, Appleton, Wausau, Superior and then Eau Claire.**

**When she and Harold needed more help, they moved to Monona, Wis. to be closer to her caretakers. She was a stay at home mom who loved her hobbies. Sewing, knitting, garden club, ceramics and painting were all pastimes she pursued during different times of her life. Gladys was also active in the local Republican Party and worked at the polls during elections.**

**She is survived by her sons, Steven, Gary (Darlene), Wayne and Peter (Jenny) Van Kauwenbergh; daughter, Lynn Ojibway; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and sisters, Joan Barnard, Dorothy (David) Johnson and Marilyn (Don) Streckenbach. She was preceded in death by her**

parents, Joseph and Edith DeBauche; husband, Harold; a brother, Hubert DeBauche; and a sister Ruth Younkle.

A private service for the immediate family will be held in Monona, followed by a memorial service and internment at a later date in Fort Howard Cemetery in Green Bay.

Online condolences may be made at [www.gundersonfh.com](http://www.gundersonfh.com).

## **CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION**

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Feb. 15, 2014      Company K drill

Waterloo High School

## **REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES**

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REPORT TO THE SECOND WISCONSIN  
VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 25, 2014

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETE SEIELSTAD

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*"NO MATTER WHERE WE GO OR WHAT EVENT WE ATTEND, THIS YEAR OR ANY YEAR, WE WILL HOLD TO ONE PRINCIPLE: PROMOTE A RELIABLE REPRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOLDIER."*

**Lieutenant Colonel's Report to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Association meeting 2013**

**Realizing an event is dictated by our own attitude, this directive served the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin well in 2013. Our winter months were spent on drill and battalion maneuvers in anticipation for the Sesquicentennial of the Battle of Gettysburg.**

**The offer of a new and potential drill venue had to be placed on hold because of conflicting schedules. Deciding to “error on the side of caution”, I rescinded the decision to move the event to Reedsburg and kept to the original date and site in May at Wade House. We should continue to look into the Pioneer Village in Reedsburg as a possible drill site.**

**The month of May is filled with school presentations and every Friday schoolyards across Wisconsin could be found with young ‘soldiers’ drilling with Quaker rifles. Hundreds of students benefit from these demonstrations and they get a hands-on experience of the American Civil War soldier.**

**Our year of preparation that looked so promising to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg became troubling. Competitive events, disapproving commanders and a carnival atmosphere marred the high hopes for a meaningful and historic event. I thought the rest of the battles were good. Picket’s Charge and the attack on East Cemetery Hill were quite impressive (*My Gettysburg AAR appears in the July Fugelman*). Additional misfortunes lessened the event and the absence of Dave Dresang and Tom Bispo reduced the experience even more. Even with heat and the other hardships, once we began to rely on our own principles, we were able to preserve a favorable experience at the event. The 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg experience is now a memory and will continue to fascinate me. Commanding a 140-man battalion was a challenge as well as a delight and I could not have been more proud of the Black Hat Battalion. Our regiment embodied the spirit of our ancestors and preformed well on the field. Above all, I am in complete reverence of the men in the ranks. You give of your personal time and expense, spend long hours of study and drill in the heat of the sun. You have fun and enjoy the camaraderie, but in reality, you have an all-embracing devotion to honor the American Civil War soldier.**

**The Second Wisconsin Association's companies continue to reach out to its communities through public demonstrations, school programs, living history events and re-enactments. Subsequently delivering a healthy dose of historical education to students, teachers and spectators.**

**The Association's participation at Wade House and the statewide events at Heritage Hill (Company E), Sauk City (Battery B.) Old World Wisconsin (Company K) and Norskedalen (Company B) proved to be the high points of our 2013 campaign.**

**Looking forward in 2014. It is still early in the year but several things are taking place. Planning for the Overland Campaign is under way and our transportation has been booked. Because the Overland Campaign recreates another battle that the Iron Brigade fought, it is important to us. Soon after fighting this battle, the Second Wisconsin, completing their 3-year enlistment, mustered out of service, leaving their sister brigades to continue on.**

**As for the Spotsylvania event, this is what I have from Darrel Markijohn (Federal commander): At this time, the plan is to create 6 army groups with approximately 150 to 200 rifles in each based on the 6 Brigades from Griffin's and Wadsworth's Divisions in the V Corps. One of those army groups (Cutler's) is reserved for the units portraying the Iron Brigade. As the New Year unfolds there is to be a conference call to discuss items and I am to be included. There is a lot of material on the event at their web-site [150spotsylvania.com](http://150spotsylvania.com). Historical information on the battles, re-enactor info is easily found. Browse the web page and read more about it. As more becomes known, I will pass the information along to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Association. To date [23 January 2014], Bob Minton was placed in command of the Western troops attending the Overland Campaign.**

**Our relationship with the Black Hat Battalion is still alive and active. Craig DeCrane has stepped down as Colonel. Transition is in the air as the BHB seeks another commander to step up to the position.**

**As each year passes I thank you all for the honor to represent the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer infantry Association. I hope I have not failed you.**

**Your obedient servant,**

**Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad**

**NATIONAL & REGIMENTAL COLORS OF THE  
2<sup>ND</sup> WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL'S REPORT**

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**The majority of 2013 found the 'old' set of National and Regimental flags in the possession of Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad. Having been procured at Wade House in 2012 they were kept in Sparta Wisconsin. The following is a report on these flags.**

**The flags were at the 2013 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Association meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January.**

**Flags of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin served the Western part of the state where they saw service at West Salem's American Civil War presentation in May. They were also made available for the La Crosse Memorial Day parade but were not used.**

**In June of 2013 the flags made an appearance in La Crosse and were the focal point of a concert in the park series that celebrated the Arm Forces. A time-line color guard presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Colors in the opening ceremony and the color guard retired the Colors following the performance. Special thanks goes to the members of the color guard. Wearing uniforms of the military infantryman in the American Revolution, Mexican War, American Civil War, Span-Am War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf**

**War and the War on Terror, gave the audience a genuine glimpse in United States military history.**

**Immediately following the tribute to the Arm Forces, the flags found their way on a bus that carried the members of the Second Wisconsin to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The Colors were carried by a color guard specifically assigned to their care throughout the event. Kudos goes to Paul Reeck, Zander Yocum and Matt Gausmann. These gentlemen performed well and showed great respect for the flags and other duties belonging to the color guard.**

**In August our flags flew at Boscobel Wisconsin. There were not enough men to represent a regiment on the field and the colors were left in camp but proudly displayed where the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin could be found.**

**Returning to the eastern part of the state the National & Regimental flags were in Green Bush Wisconsin at the annual Wade House Civil War Weekend in September.**

**Fair weather followed the flags and was never rained upon. The flags were secured in their cases following each event and will be once again unfurled at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Association annual meeting in 2014.**

### **Keeper of the Colors**

**Sgt. Robert Schwandt, who has been keeper of the colors for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin, has submitted his resignation from this appointed position after 5 years of service. His respect for the post has been observed and is appreciated.**

**Thank you Sergeant Schwandt - Well done!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Color Guard**

**Seeing a need for a more practical and standard procedure for the color guard in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Association. I have edited an article written by Elmer Woodard to be used by the members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin who find themselves in service as a color bearer at events. *Instruction for the Color Guard* was first used at the 150<sup>th</sup> Battle of Gettysburg Anniversary event. The article lays the groundwork for the responsibility of the Color Bearer and the rest of the color guard. It also gives practical advice while at events. Although the diagrams focus on nine members in the color guard and carrying one flag, it is easily adaptable to the Federal infantry carrying the National and Regimental flags of a battalion.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad**

***Kevin Birmingham, from Company K, posted this item on the Company Facebook page. While the history may be a bit vague (and inaccurate) it is something that we all can agree on in its purpose. The men who served in the Iron Brigade earned the gratitude of a grateful nation and brought honor and glory to the State of Wisconsin. Thank you Private Birmingham for providing this information for all our members!***

**LRB-3827/1  
SRM:wlj:jm**

**2013 - 2014 LEGISLATURE**

## **2013 SENATE RESOLUTION**

**RELATING TO: commending the Iron Brigade.**

**Whereas, the courageous soldiers of the Iron Brigade fought in the Union Army in the Civil War of 1861-1865; and**

**Whereas, General Rufus King brought together the infantry regiments known as the Iron Brigade and commanded them at the start of the Civil War; and**

**Whereas, the majority of the Iron Brigade was composed of young men from Wisconsin; and**

**Whereas, also known as the “Black Hats,” the Iron Brigade served in almost every major battle of the Civil War; and**

**Whereas, William F. Fox, the Civil War’s premier casualty statistician, stated that the records show that, during the Civil War, the Iron Brigade faced enemy fire most often and for the longest periods; and**

**Whereas, of the 672 infantry brigades in the Union Army, the Iron Brigade experienced the highest rate of casualties; and**

**Whereas, at the Battle of South Mountain, the Iron Brigade used the leapfrog tactic, which is still widely used by the military today; and**

**Whereas, the Iron Brigade was instrumental in helping the Union win the Battle of Gettysburg, which was the real turning point of the Civil War; and**

**Whereas, 61 percent of the Iron Brigade’s casualties were sustained at Gettysburg, with the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry suffering 77 percent of its casualties at Gettysburg; and**

**Whereas, the 6th Wisconsin Infantry is remembered for its famous charge on an unfinished railroad cut north and west of Gettysburg, where, led by Colonel Rufus R. Dawes, the infantry bravely moved forward amid hidden enemy fire, captured the flag of the 2nd Mississippi, and took hundreds of Confederate soldiers prisoner; and**

**Whereas, in total, nearly 12,000 of these Iron Brigade soldiers sacrificed their lives, and thousands more were wounded; and**

**Whereas, the eminent historian T. Harry Williams stated that the Iron Brigade was “probably the best fighting brigade in the army”; and**

**Whereas, the Iron Brigade played a significant role in helping the Union Army win the Civil War; now, therefore, be it**

***Resolved by the senate, That* the members of the Wisconsin senate join all Wisconsin residents in honoring the members of the Iron Brigade for their bravery, strength, and courage and their countless contributions to the preservation of our great nation.**

**(END)**

## **ATTENTION TO ORDERS**

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### **ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S 205<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**Abraham Lincoln has become an American icon. In an era when it has become the activity *du jour* to attack any personage of note in order to draw attention to one's self in the promotion of their written or academic work it seems passé to stand as a particular admirer of any such person. While critical analysis should always be the goal of any endeavor into the historic nature of people and events, it does require a fair and balanced approach with the goal of letting the evidence lead one to conclusions justified by the facts. This demonstrates the problem with inductive reasoning over the powers of deductive reasoning. Where one sets a theory and then gathers facts to support that theory perspective of the author challenges the presentation and one can be led to cherry pick the facts to support an argument. (This assumes the intellectual integrity of the writer and the lack of distortion of facts to reach a preconceived conclusion.)**

**This is how theories such as the gay Lincoln, the racist Lincoln, the atheistic Lincoln, the military failure of Lincoln as commander-in-chief, and the claimed non-emancipator status of Lincoln have risen to the forefront of recent endeavors to re-define Abraham Lincoln.**

**Lincoln is an enigma and he may well have wanted it that way. It is this aura of mystery that entices scholars and can lead to mischaracterizations of the man and his beliefs. That is why there are thousands of books, articles and other writings about this man. As Lincoln's 205<sup>th</sup> (55<sup>th</sup> for us who delve deeply into the sesquicentennial of the civil war) birthday approaches the literature surrounding this man will continue to flourish.**

**The focus, however, in civil war literature has changed recently to the evaluation of the service of black men in the Union army. (Not the claimed thousands who served illegally in the rebel armies!) By the end of the war 190,000 to 200,000 blacks would wear the suit of blue and carry the musket in defense of the Union and freedom. This is a legacy that Lincoln**

**was proud of and he too came to see this as another step to freedom for the black race. Lincoln knew that the service of these black soldiers were a large factor in assuring the Union's victory in the war. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1864 Abraham Lincoln turned 55 years old. He had only about 14 months to live. This author has always been heartened that Lincoln did live to see the surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Although he would only live a few days following that surrender, Lincoln had earned the right to see that event take place.**

**The year 1864 was a pivotal year. It didn't begin so well, however. The war seemed destined to wear on and the North (as well as the South) was desperately war weary. November would bring another presidential election and Lincoln worried that he would not be re-elected. The thought that with his electoral defeat the fight to preserve the Union might be lost was an enormous burden for Lincoln. Lincoln felt that any scenario that resulted in an armistice of negotiated settlement meant the end on a democratic based Union. The month of May would begin with devastating losses by the forces serving under General Grant at the Battle of the Wilderness. The fact that Grant would not back away and continued to press Lee's army was lost on the citizenry, but not the troops serving under Grant. In the western theater General Sherman was making slow progress towards Atlanta. Sherman was able to keep his casualties relatively low through a campaign of maneuver, but the lack of progress did not inspire Northern morale. There was great pressure on Lincoln to seek a negotiated end to the war. Then there was the question about how to organize reconstruction as 1864 waned. And more importantly, Lincoln had to grapple with the questions surrounding the future of the former slaves.**

**Militarily, things would demonstrate an arc of success as the year of 1864 began to wane and the elections neared. Grant had bottled the Army of Northern Virginia up in the confines of defensive lines around Richmond and Petersburg. Sherman had finally taken Atlanta and began his march to the sea. These were clear signs the trajectory of the war had turned firmly in favor of the Union forces. While the war had illustrated the result of good commanders leading determined armies moving inexorably towards victory, but this opened a whole list of issues Lincoln had to face as his 55<sup>th</sup> year drew to a close.**

**The Emancipation Proclamation was a year old and there were fruits from that document in filling the ranks with black troops. But there were concerns arising from the use of black troops. The most important one was**

**a basic distrust of black units by white soldiers. Even Lincoln and Stanton were infected with this view based in on a blind prejudice against the black race. Lincoln and Stanton wanted blacks to conduct fatigue duties to relieve white troops for the fighting. Black soldiers were assigned garrison duty to keep them from the front lines. Part of this was to protect them from being slaughtered or sold back into slavery by Confederate troops. But there was also this level of distrust that seemed to necessitate this decision by the Administration. As these black soldiers demonstrated that they were courageous and would fight and fight well the attitude of white soldiers began to change. It was a change that reflected what the United States Colored Troops had demonstrated on the field.**

**Another problem was discontent among black soldiers caused by the discrepancy in pay between black and white soldiers. When blacks were recruited to serve in the Union army they were promised the same pay as white soldiers, thirteen dollars a month. But from the beginning they were told they would only receive ten dollars a month less three dollars for a clothing allowance. This discrepancy would not be resolve finally until February, 1865. Lincoln had two approaches to the pay issue. One problem was that he feared a negative backlash to equal pay by white soldiers. The nascent prejudice and the fact that white soldiers had served long and trying terms in the service. One should note that blacks had served effectively in the navy for decades and had received the same pay as white sailors. The other calculation that Lincoln brought to this issue was his view that blacks had a special reason for serving in the army. Lincoln had said that no one would be able to deny blacks who had served in the army their right to be citizens of the preserved Union that they had facilitated. These soldiers were serving to prove their worth as men and citizens and therefore the money would be secondary to this special mission. Although the pay discrepancy would rankle the soldiers, they continued to volunteer and serve with distinction.**

**Finally, Lincoln was also required to turn his skills as a politician and leader to the multitude of issues surrounding reconstruction of the Union. Lincoln divided the issue into a number of aspects. His compassionate nature wanted to reunite the states in rebellion with “malice towards none and charity for all”. The Radical Republicans wanted the South treated as a conquered nation. Occupation and punishing the former rebel leaders ranked high on their to-do list. Lincoln recognized this approach would create an atmosphere that would result in hate and resistance for generations to come. However, one issue remained paramount in Lincoln’s**

**mind. How could he preserve the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation. Initially, Lincoln believed this should be a state issue. When Louisiana and Arkansas began the process of creating a reconstructed government Lincoln strongly encouraged them to consider two additions to their constitutions. One was to officially end slavery in their states and the other was to enfranchise intelligent blacks or blacks who had served in the military. Lincoln had also began thinking about adopting a constitutional amendment ending slavery throughout the United States for all time.**

**As we celebrate Mr. Lincoln's 205<sup>th</sup> birthday, it is well to remember the heavy responsibility that rested on his shoulders and that the results we take for granted were not foreordained as they now seem. On his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1864, there still appeared to be a long road to accomplish the goals of preserving the Union and making that Union worth the saving! Happy birthday Mr. President and may your memory burn bright as an example to future generations of Americans!!**

**FROM THE CAMPS OF THE  
COMPANIES OF THE SECOND  
WISCONSIN**

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INFANTRY



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COMPANY K

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## COMPANY K WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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**Corporal Wayne Vawter, of Company K, has been leading the effort to give Company K a presence on the internet by coordinating the construction of a website dedicated to the Comapany. You can check out the site at:**

<http://companyk2ndwi.org/>

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## FIRST SPRING DRILL OF 2014

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**Company K will assemble for the first spring drill of the year on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The drill will take place at the Waterloo High School gymnasium. The High School is located at 865 North Monroe Street, Waterloo, Wisconsin.**

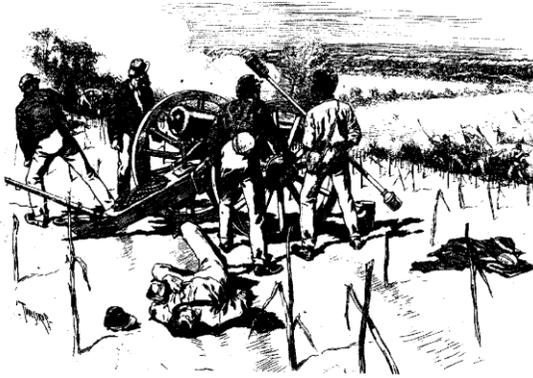
**As far as this editor is aware the drill will begin at the usual time of 9:00 a.m. The drill will last until around noon. All members of Company K are encouraged to attend. Since the National event is in early May, 2014, it is necessary to prepare effectively for the upcoming season as early as possible.**

**Arrive for drill in uniform with your rifle and leathers. Make sure you have a canteen full of water. Finally, wear soft-soled shoes to protect the gym floor during the drill.**

**BATTERY B-4<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES LIGHT  
ARTILLERY**

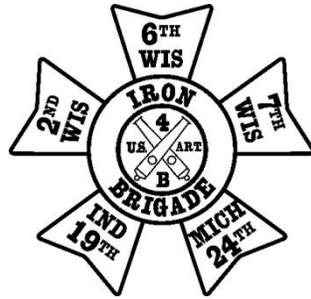
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**The image above is the Iron Brigade symbol as it appears on General John Gibbon's monument at his grave site. (It is also on the gravestone of James Stewart, who commanded the Battery at Gettysburg) Note that the center of the symbol for one of the best brigades in the Union army contains crossed cannons and the inscription 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Art. And at the bottom B. Battery B was known as the Iron Brigade Battery because of its close association with the brigade early in the war. The battery was officially assigned to Gibbon's brigade of all western regiments.**

**To General Gibbon the association was deeper than just the fact that the battery was assigned to his brigade and served with courage and distinction at such battles as Brawners Farm and Antietam. Prior to the War of the Rebellion General Gibbon had commanded that battery.**



**At this year's annual Association meeting Lyle Laufenberg proposed we adopt this symbol as a means of recognizing the close ties and glorious record of Battery B, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Light Artillery. The proposal was seconded and adopted by the members. The editor would note that in Later years the members of the Iron Brigade Association had removed the center and replaced it with the interlocking letters USV (for U.S. Volunteers) as a symbol of their pride in their volunteer status as opposed to a regular army unit. The Editor wants to express his gratitude to both Lyle Laufenberg and Gary Van Kauwenbergh for the input into this report. Thank you Gentlemen!**





Figure 1The Lt. Col. looks like he had a hard night!

**Lyle Laufenberg provided the newsletter with the previous photos from the 2014 Annual meeting of the Association. The first two photos are of Tom**

**Klas making a presentation on the first meeting for the original Company A in Fox Lake. The third and fourth photos are of members taking the muster oath. The last photo is the presentation of the annual Association award to Marv Koska. Thank you Lyle for the opportunity to remember the events at the meeting in photos.**

**The following photos were provided by Corporal John Thielmann from Company K:**



Figure 2The Association Brain Trust hard at work



Figure 3 Marv Koska honored for his service to the Association.

## THE SKIRMISH TEAM

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## CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

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**FEBRUARY**

- Feb. 1, 1861**                      **Texas secedes**
- Feb. 1, 1861**                      **Gen. Sherman begins Carolina Campaign**
- Feb. 2, 1803**                      **Gen. Albert S. Johnston, CSA, born**
- Feb. 3, 1807**                      **Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, CSA, born**
- Feb. 3, 1864**                      **Meridian Campaign begins**
- Feb. 3, 1865**                      **The Hampton Roads Peace Conference**
- Feb. 6, 1833**                      **Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, CSA, born**
- Feb. 6, 1862**                      **Victory for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in Tennessee, capturing Fort Henry, and ten days later Fort Donelson. Grant earns the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant.**
- Feb. 8, 1820**                      **Gen. William T. Sherman, USA, born**
- Feb. 8, 1862**                      **Battle of Roanoke Island**
- Feb. 9, 1861**                      **The Confederate States of America is formed with Jefferson Davis, a West Point graduate and former U.S. Army officer, as president.**
- Feb. 11, 1861**                      **Both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis begin their journeys to their respective capitals. Davis begins his journey leaving Montgomery on the steamboat *Natchez*.**

**Lincoln will board a train in Springfield on a rainy, chilly morning. From a rear platform of his rail car he will deliver his famous "Farewell Address".**

**Feb. 12, 1809**

**President Abraham Lincoln born (205 years old)**

**Feb. 13, 1862**

**Battle of Fort Donelson**

**Feb. 14, 1824**

**Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, USA, born**

**Feb. 17, 1865**

**Columbia surrenders**

**Feb. 20, 1862**

**President Lincoln is struck with grief as his beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, dies from fever, probably caused by polluted drinking water in the White House.**

**OUR WOUNDED AT  
FREDERICKSBURGH; What the U.S.  
Sanitary Commission is Doing.  
Published: May 21, 1864**

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CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NEW-YORK TIMES:

FREDERICKSBURGH, VA., WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1864.

**Thank God for the raising up of the United States Sanitary Commission -- for the great fairs, and the willing hearts and hands that have put money into its treasury. Few of the contributors not actually in the field to see for themselves, can begin to appreciate the real good being done with their money. Those of us here both see and feel, as we take our frequent day and night rounds among the many thousands of wounded men who crowd the**

**floors from basement to attic, in hundreds of houses in this city, to say nothing of the hospital camps in the field. Over 150 of us are at work here, each in his appointed district, embracing sundry smaller houses, or parts of churches, etc. To show the character of the work, and how the supplies are dispensed, I give from my memorandum book the items for only three hours past, and I am but one of a hundred and fifty engaged in the same way, and working 18 to 20 hours a day. (There are in my beat several surgeons and a well soldier for each five to twenty wounded, who draw upon the Government rations, etc. Our work is only supplementary.)**

**My three hours' dispensations -- Warm, clean woolen shirts and drawers, one or both, to thirteen men having none, or only those blood-soaked or badly dirt-soiled; arm-slings to seven men wounded in the arm or shoulder; crutches to 4 men having wounded legs or feet (many more needed;) ring-pads or cushions for eight, who are compelled to lie in one position until a sore is produced, these are to shield the sore spot or to place around a wound on the back, and are very useful; six pillows for wounded heads, or to support stumps of amputated limbs; socks for nine men without any or having only those soaked in mud; cloth head-dresses for two men lying near windows, whose hats were lost in battle; a pair of slippers for the blistered feet of a man who was otherwise able to walk; tea or prepared coffee, with sugar and condensed milk, to some thirty or more; soft bread or crackers to a like number who are unable to eat "hard tack;" cooked farina, with flavoring extracts, to several needing this; milk punch, or brandy and water from my canteen to those exhausted by surgical operations or in wound-dressing; left with nurses four cans of condensed milk, twelve lemons, a paper of cocoa, some dried fruit, some bandages and lint, a can of preserved tomatoes and a cup of pickles; gave paper, envelopes and pencils to those able to write home, and took memoranda from eight who are unable to write, for whom I will prepare letters to-night; gathered into my haversack twenty or thirty letters ready to be mailed; gave out some pipes and smoking and chewing tobacco to those longing for this, to them a luxury. All these things were drawn from the central stores and tents of the commission here as wanted, part of them being carried along in haversacks slung over my shoulders. In the same round I have noted to be supplied, as soon as we can, [??] bed-pans, 5 urinals, 21 blankets, (for those without any, or having only one to lie upon,) 40 to 50 clean shirts and drawers for those already badly soiled, sponges for 9 rooms, brooms for 10 rooms, 6 pails, towels, as many as possible, &c., &c. So much for one-sixth of a single day's work on the part of only one out of 150 men similarly engaged.**

**The above are only to meet the first and most pressing wants of the wounded. When we recall how much we can do for one wounded man at home, we can appreciate the demand where it is desired to do all we can to comfort thousands upon thousands of brave fellows, distant from home, and lying packed on floors or in tents, without even bedding or change of garment. Last midnight a long train of ambulances came from the enemy's lines, bearing famished men. Quickly our "Relief Corps" were passing along the train, carrying hot coffee, crackers, milk punch, &c., and these trains are almost constantly arriving from our own lines. At Belle Plain, whither 10,000 to 12,000 wounded have already gone on foot or in army wagons, a portion of our Relief Corps are at work, night and day, with coats off and sleeves rolled up, giving to all that come in coffee, tea, punch, food, &c., as most needed -- some at the feeding stations, others visiting those unable to leave the wagons, bearing with them great coffee-pots filled, cups, canteens, baskets and haversacks loaded with comforts.**

**Thirty-two heavy wagons and 130 horses, purchased by the commission, are engaged in hauling the commission's stores to Fredericksburgh and to the front, where other relief-men are caring for those unable to be moved at all. Two steamboats, two barges and two schooners, costing over \$500 per day, are bringing forward stores from the ample stock gathered at Washington, Baltimore and elsewhere, in anticipation of the present emergency.**

**I only speak of this particular branch of the service which has come specially under my own observation. The work is done faithfully, carefully and energetically, mainly by those whose hearts are in the enterprise, and who will take no fee or reward. There is a paid corps of men trained to act as nurses, and to advise in the dispensation of the stores by the minute-men or temporary volunteers. Teamsters, porters etc., are required in considerable numbers.**

**After the above brief epitome of what is doing and how, and with what good results, does any one regret the work or money he or she has given? Does not every one feel like doing more? The funds raised at a few points seem large; but what is all this among so many, and over so wide a field? Let us all keep on doing. The good work of the commission will only be limited by the means supplied. For one, I am exceedingly gratified at being able to help administer directly to the wounded, and I also feel that every dollar I have given is a rich treasure placed where it is yielding me most glorious returns.**

in giving direct solace and comfort to those noble heroes who fall fighting for our country, for me and mine. **ORANGE JUDD.**

## **ALONZO CUSHING MAY FINALLY GET HIS WELL DESERVED MEDAL OF HONOR!**

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*Bill Beseler posted a link to this article on the Company K Facebook page. The Fugelman has tried to keep abreast of the developments in this story over the last couple of years. Cushing commanded Battery A of the 4<sup>th</sup> U. S. Light Artillery, the sister battery to our own Battery B. Thank you to Mr. Beseler for his help in keeping up to date on this development in the saga of Captain Cushing's consideration for the Medal of Honor.*

More than 150 years after he gave his life at Gettysburg leading the effort to repel Pickett's Charge, 1st Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing is finally on track to get the Medal of Honor after Congress last month approved waiving the time limit for the nation's top military honor.

The waiver was one of a half-dozen included in the massive defense policy bill — legislation that also began to tweak the Medal of Honor system, standardizing the amount of time a nomination may be considered and removing a cap that, in recent years, had said nobody could win the medal more than once.

In the case of Cushing, Congress' approval puts him over a major hurdle. Now he must clear a review by the Defense Department, which has expressed support, and then one by President Obama.

"Having members of both parties in both Houses coming together to recognize Lt. Cushing's valor is amazing," said Dave Krueger, one of those who has picked up the banner to fight for Cushing. "It has not, nor should it be, an easy process. The story of Lt. Cushing is so compelling that our legislators have cleared the way for the president to award him this nation's highest military honor."

It's unclear why Cushing wasn't awarded the medal in the 1800s. Those above and below him in rank both earned it, including Gen. Alexander S. Webb, who led the overall defense against Pickett's Charge and gave permission for Cushing to advance, and Cushing's own trusted Sgt. Frederick Fuger, who held up the wounded Cushing so he could see the

**battlefield and served as the lieutenant's megaphone, calling out the orders Cushing could only whisper because of his two injuries. Cushing died on the Pennsylvania battlefield of a third injury. Now that the Cushing nomination is officially pending, the Pentagon would not comment on his chances, nor those of the five other troops from long-ended wars in Vietnam and Korea whom Congress also made eligible to receive the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross, which is the second-highest honor for a soldier.**

**Pentagon officials did say, however, that they asked for two of the changes that could affect current troops.**

**In one change, the law now allows service members to earn multiple Medals of Honor if their actions merit it.**

**"Given that the Medal of Honor is our nation's most prestigious military decoration, the department believes that a member who performed a subsequent act justifying award of a 2nd Medal of Honor should be recognized with a 2nd Medal of Honor," said Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Christensen, spokesman for personnel and readiness for the Defense Department.**

**The other major change was to set a standard time frame for all of the services. The law sets time limits for how long after the combat action someone can be recommended and awarded the medal, but the limits varied among the services.**

**Now, all of the services will have three years to make the recommendation and five years to issue the award.**

**Congress can always come in later and waive the time limit, as it did in the case of Cushing.**

**But the overall Medal of Honor system came under scrutiny after President George W. Bush, despite overseeing two active wars, didn't award a single living person from either of those conflicts the highest honor.**



Figure 4ALONZO CUSHING

**Rep. Duncan Hunter, who served tours as a Marine officer in Afghanistan and Iraq, has pushed for medal upgrades for two Marines in particular: Sgt. Rafael Peralta, who was killed smothering a grenade in Iraq, and then-1st Lt. Brian Chontosh, who with his Humvee taking fire from a trench in the initial days of the Iraq War ordered his driver to head straight into the trench, and proceeded to empty his rifle, his pistol, two discarded enemy AK-47s and even a discarded RPG, clearing the trench.**

**Joe Kasper, a spokesman for Mr. Hunter, said the defense policy bill's time-limit change does help, but there are other problems with the award system that need to be corrected.**

**"The time permitted from recommendation, to review, to award has always been problematic and previously existed as one of several**

**inconsistencies in a process that specifically in recent years, has not adequately recognized acts of combat valor,” Mr. Kasper said in an email. “But even with this change, the MoH process is still overshadowed by several high profile errors that have undermined faith and confidence in the process.”**

**Mr. Kasper said the credibility of the process rests now with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who has told Mr. Hunter he will take another look at Peralta’s case.**

**“If the secretary does the right thing and upgrades Peralta’s Navy Cross, then much of the trust and confidence in the process that has been lost over the last decade will be restored,” Mr. Kasper said. Peter Collier, author of the book “Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty,” said the award process has become “very, shall we say, sensitive” in the past 25 years.**

**Congress authorized the military to go back and look for minorities who may have been overlooked, in order to try to correct the record in instances when someone was deserving.**

**As for the current debate, Mr. Collier said there has been a lot of pressure to try to find living recipients who should earn the medal for actions during the war on terrorism.**

**In 2010, Staff Sgt. Sal Giunta became the first living recipient since the Vietnam War.**

**“It was looked on ... by the Medal of Honor community, as sort of a miracle,” Mr. Collier said.**

**In October, former Army Capt. William Swenson was awarded the medal after a long delay that included having his paperwork lost. Still, Mr. Collier said, the overall system has held up well, and he cautioned against political changes. “This has been pretty damned good and the integrity of it has been pretty solid,” he said.**

**Also included in the defense policy bill is a directive that the Pentagon review the policy that prohibited those wounded in the Fort Hood attack from being awarded Purple Hearts.**

**Under current policy, those wounded or killed were deemed victims of workplace violence, but some members of Congress say they should be considered casualties in the war on terrorism and eligible for the Purple Heart.**

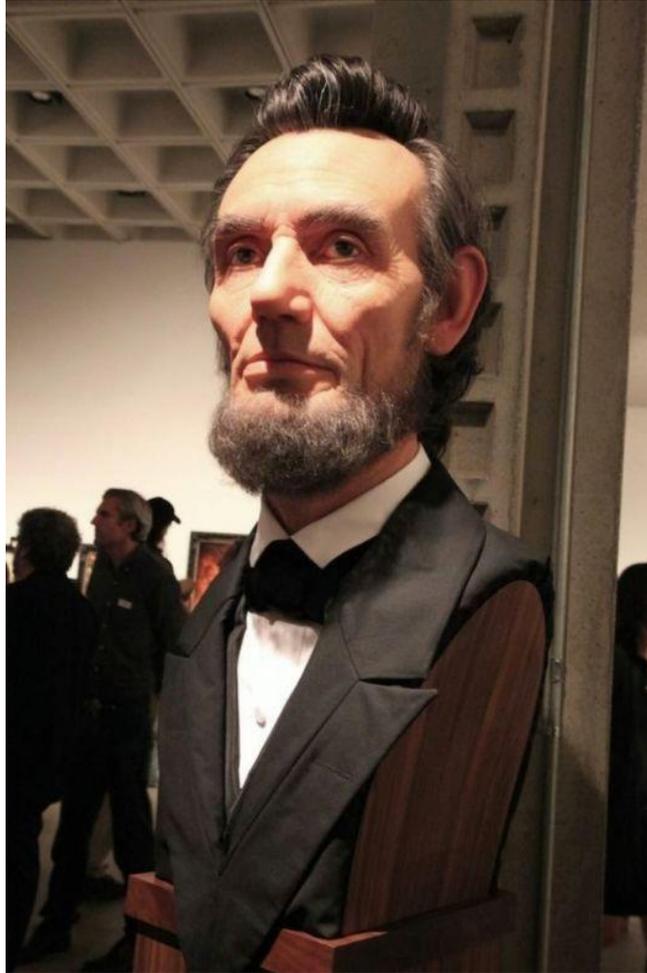
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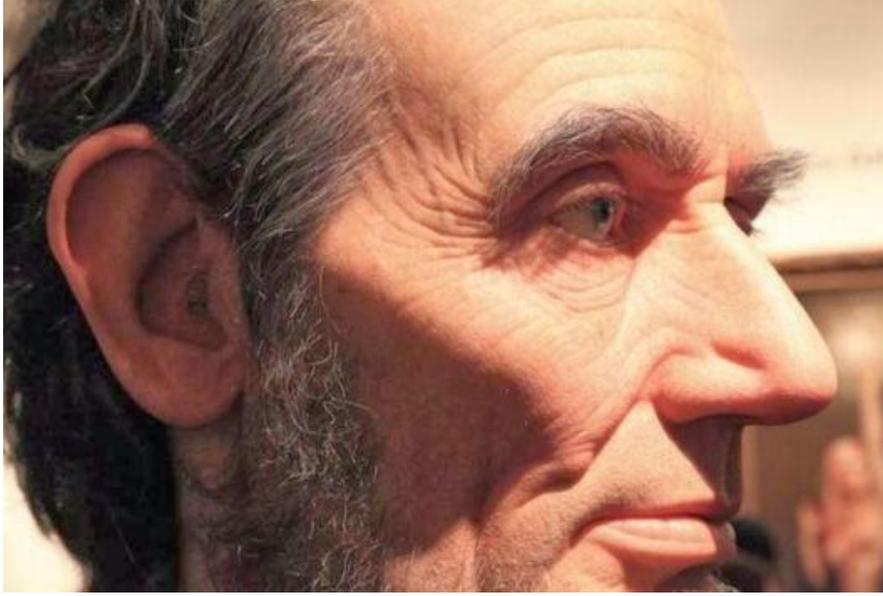
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## **AN AMAZING SCUPLTURE OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN**

**The 2nd weekend of this month in Los Angeles held an art festival. One of the works - an incredibly realistic sculpture of Abraham Lincoln. Author -**

**Kazuhiro Tsuji. The Hollywood make-up effects artist Kazuhiro Tsuji created this magnificent 3D portrait of the late president by building it "layer by layer from the inside out." (Just in case you were wondering, it is both as amazing and creepy as you're probably thinking it is.) He used clay to create this image, reproducing the smallest part of the face of the 16th U.S. President.**





## "ONE KIND OF OFFICER"

**By Ambrose Bierce**

FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE *SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER*, JANUARY 1, 1893.

INCLUDED IN *CAN SUCH THINGS BE?* (1893).

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### OF THE USES OF CIVILITY

"Captain Ransome, it is not permitted to you to know *anything*. It is sufficient that you obey my order—which permit me to repeat. If you perceive any movement of troops in your front you are to open fire, and if attacked hold this position as long as you can. Do I make myself understood, sir?"

"Nothing could be plainer. Lieutenant Price,"—this to an officer of his own battery, who had ridden up in time to hear the order—"the general's meaning is clear, is it not?"

"Perfectly."

The lieutenant passed on to his post. For a moment General Cameron and the commander of the battery sat in their saddles, looking at each other in silence. There was no more to say; apparently too much had already been

**said. Then the superior officer nodded coldly and turned his horse to ride away. The artillerist saluted slowly, gravely, and with extreme formality. One acquainted with the niceties of military etiquette would have said that by his manner he attested a sense of the rebuke that he had incurred. It is one of the important uses of civility to signify resentment.**

**When the general had joined his staff and escort, awaiting him at a little distance, the whole cavalcade moved off toward the right of the guns and vanished in the fog. Captain Ransome was alone, silent, motionless as an equestrian statue. The gray fog, thickening every moment, closed in about him like a visible doom.**

## **II**

### **UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MEN DO NOT WISH TO BE SHOT**

**The fighting of the day before had been desultory and indecisive. At the points of collision the smoke of battle had hung in blue sheets among the branches of the trees till beaten into nothing by the falling rain. In the softened earth the wheels of cannon and ammunition wagons cut deep, ragged furrows, and movements of infantry seemed impeded by the mud that clung to the soldiers' feet as, with soaken garments and rifles imperfectly protected by capes of overcoats they went dragging in sinuous lines hither and thither through dripping forest and flooded field. Mounted officers, their heads protruding from rubber ponchos that glittered like black armor, picked their way, singly and in loose groups, among the men, coming and going with apparent aimlessness and commanding attention from nobody but one another. Here and there a dead man, his clothing defiled with earth, his face covered with a blanket or showing yellow and claylike in the rain, added his dispiriting influence to that of the other dismal features of the scene and augmented the general discomfort with a particular dejection. Very repulsive these wrecks looked—not at all heroic, and nobody was accessible to the infection of their patriotic example. Dead upon the field of honor, yes; but the field of honor was so very wet! It makes a difference.**

**The general engagement that all expected did not occur, none of the small advantages accruing, now to this side and now to that, in isolated and accidental collisions being followed up. Half-hearted attacks provoked a sullen resistance which was satisfied with mere repulse. Orders were obeyed with mechanical fidelity; no one did any more than his duty.**

**"The army is cowardly to-day," said General Cameron, the commander of a Federal brigade, to his adjutant-general.**

**"The army is cold," replied the officer addressed, "and—yes, it doesn't wish to be like that."**

**He pointed to one of the dead bodies, lying in a thin pool of yellow water, its face and clothing bespattered with mud from hoof and wheel.**

**The army's weapons seemed to share its military delinquency. The rattle of rifles sounded flat and contemptible. It had no meaning and scarcely roused to attention and expectancy the unengaged parts of the line-of-battle and the waiting reserves. Heard at a little distance, the reports of cannon were feeble in volume and *timbre*: they lacked sting and resonance. The guns seemed to be fired with light charges, unshotted. And so the futile day wore on to its dreary close, and then to a night of discomfort succeeded a day of apprehension.**

**An army has a personality. Beneath the individual thoughts and emotions of its component parts it thinks and feels as a unit. And in this large, inclusive sense of things lies a wiser wisdom than the mere sum of all that it knows. On that dismal morning this great brute force, groping at the bottom of a white ocean of fog among trees that seemed as sea weeds, had a dumb consciousness that all was not well; that a day's manoeuvring had resulted in a faulty disposition of its parts, a blind diffusion of its strength. The men felt insecure and talked among themselves of such tactical errors as with their meager military vocabulary they were able to name. Field and line officers gathered in groups and spoke more learnedly of what they apprehended with no greater clearness. Commanders of brigades and divisions looked anxiously to their connections on the right and on the left, sent staff officers on errands of inquiry and pushed skirmish lines silently and cautiously forward into the dubious region between the known and the unknown. At some points on the line the troops, apparently of their own volition, constructed such defenses as they could without the silent spade and the noisy ax.**

**One of these points was held by Captain Ransome's battery of six guns. Provided always with intrenching tools, his men had labored with diligence during the night, and now his guns thrust their black muzzles through the embrasures of a really formidable earthwork. It crowned a slight acclivity devoid of undergrowth and providing an unobstructed fire that would sweep the ground for an unknown distance in front. The position could hardly have been better chosen. It had this peculiarity, which Captain Ransome, who was greatly addicted to the use of the compass, had not failed to observe: it faced northward, whereas he knew that the general line of the army must face eastward. In fact, that part of the line was "refused"—that is to say, bent backward, away from the enemy. This implied that Captain Ransome's battery was somewhere near the left flank of the army; for an army in line of battle retires its flanks if the nature of the ground will permit, they being its vulnerable points. Actually, Captain Ransome appeared to hold the extreme left of the line, no troops being visible in that direction beyond his own. Immediately in rear of his guns occurred that**

**conversation between him and his brigade commander, the concluding and more picturesque part of which is reported above.**

### **III**

#### **HOW TO PLAY THE CANNON WITHOUT NOTES**

**Captain Ransome sat motionless and silent on horseback. A few yards away his men were standing at their guns. Somewhere—everywhere within a few miles—were a hundred thousand men, friends and enemies. Yet he was alone. The mist had isolated him as completely as if he had been in the heart of a desert. His world was a few square yards of wet and trampled earth about the feet of his horse. His comrades in that ghostly domain were invisible and inaudible. These were conditions favorable to thought, and he was thinking. Of the nature of his thoughts his clear-cut handsome features yielded no attesting sign. His face was as inscrutable as that of the sphinx. Why should it have made a record which there was none to observe? At the sound of a footstep he merely turned his eyes in the direction whence it came; one of his sergeants, looking a giant in stature in the false perspective of the fog, approached, and when clearly defined and reduced to his true dimensions by propinquity, saluted and stood at attention.**

**"Well, Morris," said the officer, returning his subordinate's salute.**

**"Lieutenant Price directed me to tell you, sir, that most of the infantry has been withdrawn. We have not sufficient support."**

**"Yes, I know."**

**"I am to say that some of our men have been out over the works a hundred yards and report that our front is not picketed."**

**"Yes."**

**"They were so far forward that they heard the enemy."**

**"Yes."**

**"They heard the rattle of the wheels of artillery and the commands of officers."**

**"Yes."**

**"The enemy is moving toward our works."**

**Captain Ransome, who had been facing to the rear of his line—toward the point where the brigade commander and his cavalcade had been swallowed up by the fog—reined his horse about and faced the other way. Then he sat motionless as before.**

**"Who are the men who made that statement?" he inquired, without looking at the sergeant; his eyes were directed straight into the fog over the head of his horse.**

**"Corporal Hassman and Gunner Manning."**

**Captain Ransome was a moment silent. A slight pallor came into his face, a slight compression affected the lines of his lips, but it would have required a closer observer than Sergeant Morris to note the change. There was none in the voice.**

**"Sergeant, present my compliments to Lieutenant Price and direct him to open fire with all the guns. Grape."**

**The sergeant saluted and vanished in the fog.**

**IV.**

#### **TO INTRODUCE GENERAL MASTERSON**

**Searching for his division commander, General Cameron and his escort had followed the line of battle for nearly a mile to the right of Ransome's battery, and there learned that the division commander had gone in search of the corps commander. It seemed that everybody was looking for his immediate superior—an ominous circumstance. It meant that nobody was quite at ease. So General Cameron rode on for another half-mile, where by good luck he met General Masterson, the division commander, returning.**

**"Ah, Cameron," said the higher officer, reining up, and throwing his right leg across the pommel of his saddle in a most unmilitary way—"anything up? Found a good position for your battery, I hope—if one place is better than another in a fog."**

**"Yes, general," said the other, with the greater dignity appropriate to his less exalted rank, "my battery is very well placed. I wish I could say that it is as well commanded."**

**"Eh, what's that? Ransome? I think him a fine fellow. In the army we should be proud of him."**

**It was customary for officers of the regular army to speak of it as "the army." As the greatest cities are most provincial, so the self-complacency of aristocracies is most frankly plebeian.**

**"He is too fond of his opinion. By the way, in order to occupy the hill that he holds I had to extend my line dangerously. The hill is on my left—that is to say the left flank of the army."**

**"Oh, no, Hart's brigade is beyond. It was ordered up from Drytown during the night and directed to hook on to you. Better go and—"**

**The sentence was unfinished: a lively cannonade had broken out on the left, and both officers, followed by their retinues of aides and orderlies making a great jingle and clank, rode rapidly toward the spot. But they were soon impeded, for they were compelled by the fog to keep within sight of the line-of-battle, behind which were swarms of men, all in motion across their way. Everywhere the line was assuming a sharper and harder definition, as the men sprang to arms and the officers, with drawn swords, "dressed" the ranks. Color-bearers unfurled the flags, buglers blew the "assembly," hospital attendants appeared with stretchers. Field officers mounted and sent their impedimenta to the rear in care of negro servants. Back in the ghostly spaces of the forest could be heard the rustle and murmur of the reserves, pulling themselves together.**

**Nor was all this preparation vain, for scarcely five minutes had passed since Captain Ransome's guns had broken the truce of doubt before the whole region was aroar: the enemy had attacked nearly everywhere.**

**V**

## **HOW SOUNDS CAN FIGHT SHADOWS**

**Captain Ransome walked up and down behind his guns, which were firing rapidly but with steadiness. The gunners worked alertly, but without haste or apparent excitement. There was really no reason for excitement; it is not much to point a cannon into a fog and fire it. Anybody can do as much as that.**

**The men smiled at their noisy work, performing it with a lessening alacrity. They cast curious regards upon their captain, who had now mounted the banquette of the fortification and was looking across the parapet as if observing the effect of his fire. But the only visible effect was the substitution of wide, low-lying sheets of smoke for their bulk of fog. Suddenly out of the obscurity burst a great sound of cheering, which filled the intervals between the reports of the guns with startling distinctness! To the few with leisure and opportunity to observe, the sound was inexpressibly**

strange—so loud, so near, so menacing, yet nothing seen! The men who had smiled at their work smiled no more, but performed it with a serious and feverish activity.

From his station at the parapet Captain Ransome now saw a great multitude of dim gray figures taking shape in the mist below him and swarming up the slope. But the work of the guns was now fast and furious. They swept the populous declivity with gusts of grape and canister, the whirring of which could be heard through the thunder of the explosions. In this awful tempest of iron the assailants struggled forward foot by foot across their dead, firing into the embrasures, reloading, firing again, and at last falling in their turn, a little in advance of those who had fallen before. Soon the smoke was dense enough to cover all. It settled down upon the attack and, drifting back, involved the defense. The gunners could hardly see to serve their pieces, and when occasional figures of the enemy appeared upon the parapet—having had the good luck to get near enough to it, between two embrasures, to be protected from the guns—they looked so unsubstantial that it seemed hardly worth while for the few infantrymen to go to work upon them with the bayonet and tumble them back into the ditch.

As the commander of a battery in action can find something better to do than cracking individual skulls, Captain Ransome had retired from the parapet to his proper post in rear of his guns, where he stood with folded arms, his bugler beside him. Here, during the hottest of the fight, he was approached by Lieutenant Price, who had just sabred a daring assailant inside the work. A spirited colloquy ensued between the two officers—spirited, at least, on the part of the lieutenant, who gesticulated with energy and shouted again and again into his commander's ear in the attempt to make himself heard above the infernal din of the guns. His gestures, if coolly noted by an actor, would have been pronounced to be those of protestation: one would have said that he was opposed to the proceedings. Did he wish to surrender?

Captain Ransome listened without a change of countenance or attitude, and when the other man had finished his harangue, looked him coldly in the eyes and during a seasonable abatement of the uproar said:

"Lieutenant Price, it is not permitted to you to know *anything*. It is sufficient that you obey my orders."

The lieutenant went to his post, and the parapet being now apparently clear Captain Ransome returned to it to have a look over. As he mounted the banquette a man sprang upon the crest, waving a great brilliant flag. The captain drew a pistol from his belt and shot him dead. The body, pitching forward, hung over the inner edge of the embankment, the arms straight downward, both hands still grasping the flag. The man's few followers

**turned and fled down the slope. Looking over the parapet, the captain saw no living thing. He observed also that no bullets were coming into the work.**

**He made a sign to the bugler, who sounded the command to cease firing. At all other points the action had already ended with a repulse of the Confederate attack; with the cessation of this cannonade the silence was absolute.**

## **VI**

### **WHY, BEING AFFRONTED BY A, IT IS NOT BEST TO AFFRONT B**

**General Masterson rode into the redoubt. The men, gathered in groups, were talking loudly and gesticulating. They pointed at the dead, running from one body to another. They neglected their foul and heated guns and forgot to resume their outer clothing. They ran to the parapet and looked over, some of them leaping down into the ditch. A score were gathered about a flag rigidly held by a dead man.**

**"Well, my men," said the general cheerily, "you have had a pretty fight of it."**

**They stared; nobody replied; the presence of the great man seemed to embarrass and alarm.**

**Getting no response to his pleasant condescension, the easy-mannered officer whistled a bar or two of a popular air, and riding forward to the parapet, looked over at the dead. In an instant he had whirled his horse about and was spurring along in rear of the guns, his eyes everywhere at once. An officer sat on the trail of one of the guns, smoking a cigar. As the general dashed up he rose and tranquilly saluted.**

**"Captain Ransome!"—the words fell sharp and harsh, like the clash of steel blades—"you have been fighting our own men—our own men, sir; do you hear? Hart's brigade!"**

**"General, I know that."**

**"You know it—you know that, and you sit here smoking? Oh, damn it, Hamilton, I'm losing my temper,"—this to his provost-marshal. "Sir—Captain Ransome, be good enough to say—to say why you fought our own men."**

**"That I am unable to say. In my orders that information was withheld."**

**Apparently the general did not comprehend.**

**"Who was the aggressor in this affair, you or General Hart?" he asked.**

**"I was."**

**"And could you not have known—could you not see, sir, that you were attacking our own men?"**

**The reply was astounding!**

**"I knew that, general. It appeared to be none of my business."**

**Then, breaking the dead silence that followed his answer, he said:**

**"I must refer you to General Cameron."**

**"General Cameron is dead, sir—as dead as he can be—as dead as any man in this army. He lies back yonder under a tree. Do you mean to say that he had anything to do with this horrible business?"**

**Captain Ransome did not reply. Observing the altercation his men had gathered about to watch the outcome. They were greatly excited. The fog, which had been partly dissipated by the firing, had again closed in so darkly about them that they drew more closely together till the judge on horseback and the accused standing calmly before him had but a narrow space free from intrusion. It was the most informal of courts-martial, but all felt that the formal one to follow would but affirm its judgment. It had no jurisdiction, but it had the significance of prophecy.**

**"Captain Ransome," the general cried impetuously, but with something in his voice that was almost entreaty, "if you can say anything to put a better light upon your incomprehensible conduct I beg you will do so."**

**Having recovered his temper this generous soldier sought for something to justify his naturally sympathetic attitude toward a brave man in the imminence of a dishonorable death.**

**"Where is Lieutenant Price?" the captain said.**

**That officer stood forward, his dark saturnine face looking somewhat forbidding under a bloody handkerchief bound about his brow. He understood the summons and needed no invitation to speak. He did not look at the captain, but addressed the general:**

**"During the engagement I discovered the state of affairs, and apprised the commander of the battery. I ventured to urge that the firing cease. I was insulted and ordered to my post."**

**"Do you know anything of the orders under which I was acting?" asked the captain.**

**"Of any orders under which the commander of the battery was acting," the lieutenant continued, still addressing the general, "I know nothing."**

**Captain Ransome felt his world sink away from his feet. In those cruel words he heard the murmur of the centuries breaking upon the shore of eternity. He heard the voice of doom; it said, in cold, mechanical, and measured tones: "Ready, aim, fire!" and he felt the bullets tear his heart to shreds. He heard the sound of the earth upon his coffin and (if the good God was so merciful) the song of a bird above his forgotten grave. Quietly detaching his sabre from its supports, he handed it up to the provost-marshal. ■**



