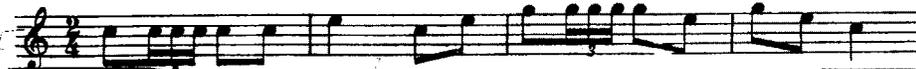




Moderately



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# RECALL

The North Carolina Military Historical Society



VOLUME 18

SPRING 2012

ISSUE 1

## JACKSON'S GUN LINE ON HENRY HOUSE HILL

BY WILLIAM NORTHROP

I had the privilege recently of attending a lecture by Dr. Ethan Rafuse, the Military Historian at the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His talk was on the Battle of First Manassas ("these are the times that try men's souls") with the appropriate political and social background to what all expected to be a one-battle war on the European model.

In covering the granularity of the fight for Henry House Hill, Dr. Rafuse recited the conventional wisdom that Jackson had employed 13 tubes on his gun line to check the assaulting blue hordes. This was not the first time we had heard or read this, but thinking further did not relieve the feeling that something seemed a bit off-plumb.

The Park Service also holds to the 13-gun predicate, but John Hennessy, the Service's guru on First Manassas, leaves a great deal of wiggle room with "Old Jack now had at least 13 *additional* (emphasis added) guns at his disposal ..."

Then there is the Park Service plaque on Henry House Hill. Anyone with a nodding acquaintance of this fight immediately recognizes some irritating inconsistencies, which I, for one, had been unable to noodle out.

So, this article is about the Battle of First Manassas; not the entire battle, mind you, but only one of the half dozen or so fights that taken collectively, constitute the whole. The reader is cautioned that this is not the be-all, end-all narrative of the battle or even one of its fights. Your humble servant, therefore, begs your indulgence as we stray a bit from the beaten zone to question the consensus of contemporary interpretation of this battle.

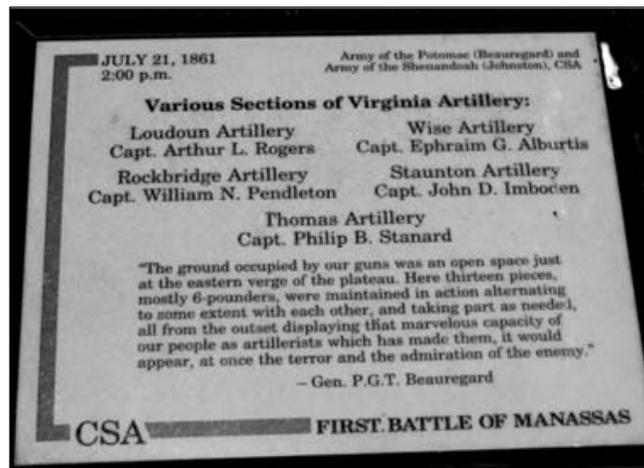
We are reasonably sure how matters started, but after that the

waters become muddied. A Federal Army of 30,000 to 35,000 men set out from Washington to attack the Confederate forces holding the rail intersection at Manassas Junction, Virginia. The Yankees were under the command of Irvin McDowell, USMA Class of 1838.

Down on the banks of a Virginia stream called Bull Run sat Pierre Beauregard, also USMA Class of 1838, commanding some 22,000 Southerners. Shortly before the contest was joined on Sunday, 21 July 1861, Beauregard was reinforced by Joe Johnston's 6,000 to 10,000 troops from the Shenandoah Valley. The antagonists were thereby roughly matched in numbers. (Interestingly, units from all the Southern states were on the field, but Virginia provided some 40% of the Confederate forces.)

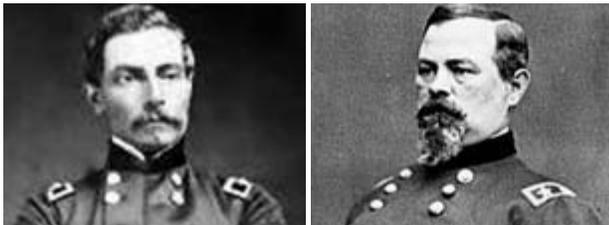
Both Beauregard and McDowell decided on a battle plan that would turn their opponent's left flank to end up between the enemy force and their respective capitals. Is this coincidence? Probably not. These two commanders were not only West Point classmates, but also roommates.

Coming from the same school with the same instructors, Beauregard and McDowell practiced the same principles and tactics. Let me make the point: Both were students of Dennis Hart Mahan, USMA Class of 1824, who taught Engineering and Military Science at West Point for over 40 years. Mahan, who studied in France from 1826 to 1830, believed with a certitude that Napoleonic military doctrine could not be improved upon, especially as it was interpreted by Antoine-Henri, the baron Jomini, a Swiss military historian and former member of Ney's and Bonaparte's staffs. While Mahan was then arguably one of the



Park Service Plaque at site of the gun line on Henry House Hill.

foremost military minds in America, he utterly failed to recognize two critical technical developments—the rifle and the railroad—and apply them in his classes. Thus, he sent forth his students to confront concentrated, modern firepower with outmoded Napoleonic tactics. (Subsequent generations of cadets have inherited Jomini’s *Art of War* as required reading.)



Pierre Beauregard and Irvin McDowell

Military historians have always been fascinated with how approximately 6,500 Southerners managed to stop the onslaught of some 18,000 Yankees on Henry House Hill that Sunday. Conventional wisdom holds that Jackson was able to delay those Yankees until more Confederate units arrived to reinforce him. Jackson, an old gunner, did this with an artillery “gun line”. As noted above, the generally accepted number of his tubes is 13, but was that the actual number? This is the question that begs and the answer, I would proffer, might cast more light on that Southern victory. In any event, that is the base-line catalyst for this inquiry.

A second interesting aspect of this fight is the artillery duel that took place on Henry House Hill between the two forces. The problem for the Federal assault columns moving on the Confederate position was self-evident: infantry and canister rounds do not mix well. It was clear that Jackson’s gun line had to be broken for the Federals to advance and to this end, McDowell deployed two batteries of artillery from the Regular Army. These two 6-gun batteries were Company I, 1st US Artillery, under the command of James B. Ricketts and Company D, 5th US Artillery under Charles Griffin. Both batteries were equipped with new 10-pounder Parrott Rifles. This gave the Federals 12 guns, crewed by professional artillerists and led by two West Point-trained officers.

If we accept the conventional assumption for the moment, Jackson’s gun line sat approximately 300 to 500 yards away and consisted of 13 bronze, 6-pounder smoothbores crewed by volunteers. On the surface, it would appear that the Confederates were outgunned, but they were certainly not outfought. And being fair, the Southern volunteer artillerists were officered, for the most part, by VMI-trained commanders, with a sprinkling of West Pointers, so they knew what they were doing.

#### The Answer

It is here I must take exception with the generally accepted narrative. Let us begin with the Park Service plaque. There it is, the famous Beauregard quote claiming 13 guns. Additionally, we have five Confederate artillery batteries specifically named. Please allow us to nitpick:

The Loudoun Artillery under VMI-trained Arthur L. Rogers was assigned to Philip St. George Cocke, a West Pointer commanding the Fifth Brigade, Army of the Potomac. This was a 4-gun outfit and as near as can be determined a 2-gun section under Henry Heaton was sent by Cocke and deployed in the gun line to the left of Imboden’s guns before he withdrew.

Next is the Rockbridge Artillery under the West Pointer

William N. Pendleton (the father of Jackson’s famous staffer, Sandie Pendleton). This 4-gun battery was assigned to Jackson’s First Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah and was indeed part of the gun line. But, by the time of the fight, Pendleton had been promoted and the battery was fought that day by its new commander, J.P. Brockenbrough.

The Wise Artillery under Ephraim G. Alburts is named next and was indeed part of the gun line on Henry House Hill. Alburts, however, was not on the field that day and this 4-gun battery was commanded by a young West Pointer, John Pelham.

The 4-gun Staunton Artillery under John Imboden is correct, but he lost one gun to Federal counter-battery fire enroute to the crest. This battery was assigned Bee’s Third Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah, and as we shall see was the initial anchor of the gun line.

Lastly, the Thomas Artillery under VMI-trained Phil Stanard is also correct. This 4-gun battery was not brigaded. Stanard was either ordered to follow Jackson or he showed up on Henry House Hill simply looking for a fight.

So let us assume for the moment that the 13-gun count is correct. Still, those five 4-gun batteries named on the plaque tend to give a thinking man pause, unless, of course, you are a graduate of the Jethro Bodine School of Ciphering or an enthusiastic dis-



Dennis Mahan and Antoine-Henri de Jomini

ciple of the “new math” where 3 times 4 plus 2 plus 3 equals 13. On balance, your humble servant finds himself confused, and the establishment insufficiently hungry for the facts.

#### A Revised Narrative

The first meeting engagement that Sunday morning took place on the Matthews brothers’ farm, known ever after as the fight for Matthews Hill. The first Confederate unit on that field was “Shanks” Evans’ Seventh Brigade, (Confederate) Army of the Potomac. This force consisted of six companies of John Sloan’s 4th South Carolina along with the five companies of Roberdeau Wheat’s Louisiana Tigers ... perhaps 900 men in all. Additionally, Evans had 2 six-pounder smooth bores—the 2nd section of H.G. Latham’s Battery, the Lynchburg Artillery—under the command of George S. Davidson. These 2 guns were deployed at positions some distance apart, one to the Confederate left on Buck Hill and the other to the right, just north of the Warrenton Pike.

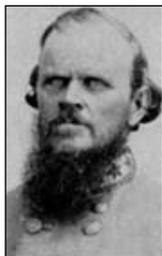
Confirming the presence of Davidson’s guns on Matthews Hill, General Beauregard later wrote with specificity:

“...6 companies of Sloan’s 4th South Carolina and Wheat’s battalion of Louisiana Tigers with 2 6-pound howitzers.” (emphasis added.)

Sometime in the vortex created by the Matthews Hill fight, Bernard Bee and Francis Bartow’s regiments were sucked into the fray. John Imboden’s Staunton Artillery (4 six-pounders), assigned to Bee’s Third Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah, deployed in support between the Robinson and Henry houses, at the

northern edge of Henry House Hill, the second hill to the south of Matthews. This put six Confederate guns supporting the action.

The 2nd Rhode Island was the point regiment of the two-division, Federal turning column and the first in contact with Shanks



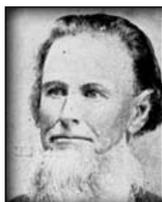
Evans

Evans' boys. Initially, the Rebs had the best of the New Englanders, but the building vortex quickly sucked in the 2nd Rhode Island artillery, a six-gun battery armed with 13-pounder James rifles. To make matters worse, two more Federal batteries—those of Ricketts and Griffin—arrived and unlimbered beside the Rhode Islanders. This equated to an 18 to 6 advantage for the Federals in throw-weight.



Wheat

Sometime around noon, two Yankee brigades under Sherman and Keyes crossed Bull Run at the Farm Ford near the Stone Bridge south of Matthews Hill, threatening the right flank of the engaged Confederate forces. Thus out maneuvered and already badly outnumbered, Evans's, Bee's, and Bartow's troops, along with Davidson's six-pounder from Buck Hill began to withdraw, covered by Davidson's last gun and Imboden on Henry House Hill.



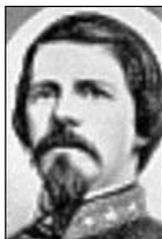
Sloan

Wade Hampton's South Carolina infantry arrived just before Jackson's Virginians and deployed to block the Federals then approaching Henry House Hill in the wake of the withdrawing Confederates. This allowed the rather disorderly withdrawal of the remnants of the Confederate regiments from Matthews Hill.



Bartow

About then Jackson arrived with his brigade (First Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah) on the southeastern quadrant of the summit of the Henry heights. Below the crest, he watched as about 3,000 men of the 6 Confederate regiments from the Matthews Hill fight moved up toward his position. Making a quick estimate of the situation, Jackson shook out his brigade in line just back of the hill's crest, partially in a tree line, and then set about gathering artillery.



Bee

As the troops from Matthews Hill withdrew toward Henry House Hill, Imboden limbered up, displaced and was withdrawing when Federal counter-battery fire hit and disabled one of his guns. Abandoning his disabled gun but saving the limber, he continued toward the crest only to have Jackson grab him. Even though he was low on ammunition, he unlimbered in front

of the 27th Virginia and formed the anchor of Jackson's gun line.

Davidson's 2 six-pounders, which were also withdrawing from the Matthews Hill fight, fought a rear guard action until they exhausted their ammunition. According to his after-action report, Davidson then withdrew his guns to the Lewis house (Portici) and reported to his battery commander. He was no longer in the fight.

So Jackson started his gun line with 3 tubes—Imboden's from the Matthews Hill fight—deployed in front of his brigade at this point in time. Imboden was quickly joined by the 5-gun battery of the Washington Artillery Battalion from Louisiana. There

is some evidence that these guns arrived with or shortly after Jackson on Henry House Hill. Imboden describes one 2-gun section of this battery—probably the 2nd Section, 4th Company under John Richardson—deploying beside him in his initial position at the northern edge prior to his withdrawal to the crest. This 2-gun section withdrew and rejoined the rest of their company at the Lewis house (Portici) before joining Jackson's gun line. The Washington Artillery battalion commander, John Walton, confirmed his participation on Jackson's gun line in his after-action report, but does not mention which battery, the number of tubes or where on the line he deployed. Beauregard stated that these five guns had accompanied Jackson initially, and that would make sense if we massage it a bit. Longstreet mentioned this battery, but not the number of tubes. Walton's only battery of five guns was his 4th Company, under the command of Charles W. Squires, which was assigned to Jubal Early's Sixth Brigade, Army of the Potomac. This would have brought Jackson's total up to 8 tubes at that point on his gun line.

General Beauregard may have been on Henry House Hill by this time—pointedly encouraged by Joe Johnston—or he may not have been; it is almost impossible to divine the time sequence. In any event, he further confuses matters as to the timing when he wrote later that while he was reinforcing his left, apparently before he moved to Henry House Hill, he:

“...ordered the reserves below our position, Holmes's brigade with 6 guns, and Early's brigade, also 2 regiments of Bonham's brigade, near at hand, to move swiftly to the left.”

Those “6 guns” with Holmes (Reserve Brigade, Army of the Potomac) had to be the Purcell Artillery under Reuben Lindsey Walker, VMI Class of 1845, but there is no further mention of this outfit or its participation in the fight until much later. In fact, Walker and his battery were not on Henry House Hill. Sometime after 3 that afternoon they arrived on Chinn Ridge with the South Carolinians of Bonham's brigade and Jubal Early's boys. Once again, the record is muddled. Imboden puts Walker's battery on the high ground west of the Stone Bridge firing on the Federals as they retreated up the Warrenton Pike toward Centerville. Perhaps he meant Chinn Ridge. Either way, these guns cannot be counted for our purposes.

The Rockbridge Artillery (4 tubes) nominally assigned to Jackson's First Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah, arrived on Henry House Hill next (we think) and deployed somewhere beside Imboden's guns in front of the 4th and 27th Virginia. William N. Pendleton, a West Pointer and the battery's previous commander, had been promoted by then to Colonel in charge of all artillery in Joe Johnston's Army. His Rockbridge Artillery was under the command of J.P. Brockenbrough during this fight, but Pendleton was, by all accounts, on the field. So, by then Jackson would have had a total of at least 12 guns deployed in front of his brigade.

Then in the bedlam, the 4-gun Alburtis' Battery of the Wise Artillery (aka Grove's Culpepper Battery) arrived and unlimbered on the gun line. This unit was nominally assigned to Bartow's 2nd Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah, but had not been engaged earlier with their infantry on Matthews Hill. The battery was commanded by Ephraim G. Alburtis, a Virginia Militia officer and Mexican War veteran, but that Sunday he was not on the scene. Commanding the battery was its training officer and drillmaster, a young West Pointer named Johnny Pelham.

The arrival of this battery brought the total to 16 guns facing the Federals on Henry House Hill.

The primary source record is blurry and unfocused, and cannot be described without the liberal use of the word "cluster," but sometime about then Philip Stanard arrived with his 4 guns of the Thomas Artillery. Another VMI-trained officer, Standard's battery was not brigaded, and they apparently arrived on Henry House Hill either by marching to the sound of the guns or as Pendleton states at the request of Jackson. Like the previous arrivals, Stanard deployed in front of Jackson's brigade bringing the total to 20 tubes in the gun line.

Last to arrive, as near as we can determine, was the 2-gun section of the Loudoun Artillery under Henry Heaton, which was sent over by Philip Cocke and deployed in the gun line to the left of Imboden before he withdrew. This gives us 22 tubes on Jackson's gun line at one time.

Shortly thereafter there was a subtraction from the total. John Imboden's guns were relieved to withdraw. Besides losing one of his guns to a cracked axle from Federal fire before arriving on the gun line, an excited gunner spiked one of his 3 remaining tubes with a priming wire in its vent hole. Imboden, then out of ammunition anyway, withdrew to Portici (the Lewis house) to refit and resupply. He did not rejoin the fight. This would revise our total down to 19 tubes on the gun line, but just to confuse our calculations further, Imboden clearly states the final number was 26 guns. (We do not know if that was before or after he withdrew, so we are not even going there.)

To cloud the issue even more, John Hennessy in his excellent book, *The First Battle of Manassas*, reduces the number of tubes in *Standard's* (sic) *Thomas Artillery* to one section of 2 guns and puts their arrival on the gun line early with Imboden. Still in all, this would put the final number at 18 guns.

The Order of Battle for Jackson's gun line should look something like this:

BATTERY CO	UNIT NAME	<u>NR</u> <u>TUBES</u>	ASSIGNMENT
Imboden	Staunton Artillery	3	Third Brigade, AOS
Stanard	Thomas Artillery	4	Not Brigaded, AOS
Brockenbrough	Rockbridge Artillery	4	First Brigade, AOS
Pelham	Wise Artillery	4	Second Brigade, AOS
Squires	Washington Artillery	5	Sixth Brigade, AOP
Rogers	Loudoun Artillery	2	Fifth Brigade, AOP

### Documentation

Trying to document these numbers using primary sources is more than confusing. Beauregard in *Battles and Leaders* puts the number of tubes in front of Jackson at 13 and for reasons still unknown, the National Park Service currently seems to agree. Beauregard noted:

With 6500 men and 13 pieces of artillery, I now awaited the onset of the enemy, who were pressing forward 20,000 strong ...

and

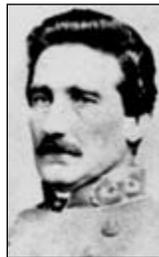
Our own batteries, Imboden's, Stanard's, five of Walton's, reinforced later by Pendleton's and Alburtis ... swept the surface of the plateau from their position on the eastern rim.

Actually, McDowell had only 18,000 men west of Bull Run, but never mind. If one does the math on Beauregard's statement, a grand total of 20 guns are calculated. Beauregard does not further mention Davidson's 2 six-pounders that fought the rear

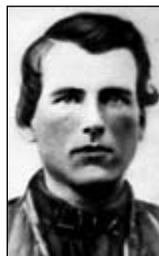
guard action from Matthews Hill, because they were not on the field and therefore cannot be counted.

Well, let's not get too comfortable with "Old Borie". In his after-action report, which he finally submitted on 14 October 1861, he enumerates the guns as:

- 2 rifled guns of the Washington Artillery
- 2 of Stanard's Thomas Artillery
- 2 of Rogers' Loudoun Artillery
- 5 of Walton's Washington Artillery
- 4 of Imboden's Staunton Artillery



Imboden



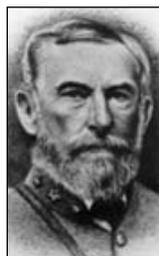
Stanard



Stanard



Squires



Pendleton

Now, if we massage these numbers, taking away the 2 rifled tubes of the Washington Artillery, accept (arguably) that Stanard had only a section of his battery on site, and reduce Imboden by 1 gun, we obtain the number 12. Close, but no cigar.

In his after-action report, Jackson did not mention the number of tubes; he only noted the batteries by name. Those were Stanard, Imboden, Pendleton and Pelham, which would add up to only 15 guns. He did not mention the 5 guns of the Washington Artillery, which we know were on the gun line.

James Longstreet who commanded the 4th Brigade, Army of the Potomac, at the other end of the battlefield and was not engaged, wrote later in *From Manassas to Appomattox*:

Jackson deployed on the crest at the height, leaving the open of the plateau in front. He was in time to secure the Imboden battery before it got off the field, and put it into action. Stanard's battery, Pendleton's and Pelham's, and part of the Washington Artillery were up in time to aid Jackson in his new formation and relieve our discomforted troops rallying on his flank.

Longstreet's sum totals 20 guns.

### Conclusion

The gun line Jackson deployed in front of his brigade was a formidable affair. It not only stopped the numerically superior Federal infantry, but it hammered the two Regular batteries deployed for the specific purpose of breaking it. Whether that Confederate position on Henry House Hill contained 13 guns, 22 or somewhere in-between makes little difference 150 years after the action. Still, the 22 gun theory goes a long way toward explaining how 6,500 Confederates managed to first stop and then allow reinforcements, which finally overwhelmed close to 18,000 Yankees on Henry House Hill. I rest my case.

*The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Archives and Museum of Oak Ridge Military Academy in Oak Ridge, North Carolina.*

# Oscar Sexton Goodwin *Tar Heel Pharmacist's Mate with the 6th Marines on the Western Front*

By Sion Harrington III

For those fortunate enough to have known old "Doc" Goodwin, most knew him merely as the kindly old doctor who tended to the colds, fevers, cuts, scrapes, and various other maladies of the citizens of the small Wake County town of Apex, North Carolina. Only a few knew that in his youth he had served in the United States Navy Medical Corps during World War I attached to the 6th Marine Regiment. Not only had he served, he was a genuine hero.

Goodwin and his unit were assigned to the 2nd Division of General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing's American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in France. With this fabled unit, Pharmacist Mate First Class (PhM1c) Oscar Sexton Goodwin fought through the bloody campaigns of 1918 in some of the most famous battles in the annals of American military history: Verdun, Belleau Wood and Bovesches, Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel, Mont Blanc, and the epic Meuse Argonne Offensive.

Oscar Sexton Goodwin was born 21 October 1894 in the Buckhorn Township of western Wake County to Asa Titus and Rena Lawrence Goodwin. By 1900, Oscar, the eldest of seven children, his siblings, and parents were living in the White Oak District of Wake County where they attended Olive Chapel Baptist Church. Not much is known of his early life, but it is safe to assume he attended the local schools and may have attended college for an unspecified time before the onset of America's entrance into the First World War interrupted his studies. A hand-written entry in an old copy of Reverend Garland Hendricks' circa 1950 Biography of a Country Church chronicling the history of Olive Chapel states that at the time he entered the United States Navy, Goodwin "was a doctor not yet ready to practice" and that he was "sent to France rather than returning to his own community to practice." This may indicate that Goodwin was a medical school student at the time he went to war. The fact that he rose to the rank of Pharmacist Mate First Class in slightly more than two years of service could be an indicator of some degree of prior medical instruction.

Regardless of his previous medical training, when Oscar Sexton Goodwin served in combat in France, he was carrying on a family tradition. His paternal grandfather Alfred Goodwin of Chatham County, North Carolina, had "seen the elephant" as a Confederate cavalryman during the War Between the States, enlisting in 1864 in Company G, 63rd Regiment, North Carolina Troops (5th North Carolina Cavalry). But had it not been for one of his more prominent Wake County neighbors, Goodwin might never have shared his grandfather's martial experience on the battlefield.

The United States Marine Corps has always relied on its parent organization, the United States Navy, for medical support. Such was the case when the Marines found themselves attached to the AEF, to the chagrin of its commander, General John J. Pershing. Initially assigned to the United States Army's First Division, they were later reassigned to the Second Division. Had it not been for the persistence of Raleigh's own Josephus Daniels, then Secretary of the Navy under President Woodrow Wilson and former well-known newspaper publisher, the famous "AEF" that drove back the "Huns" in France, Belgium, and other locales would have been an all-Army show. Daniels insisted that his naval infantry be allowed to share in the fight on land. General Pershing was reportedly cool to the idea, at least initially, of using the Marines in a land role in France.



**PhM1c Oscar Sexton Goodwin, US Navy (attached to 6th Marines), probably on or shortly before his return to the United States.** —Photo courtesy of Bill and Dot Goodwin

The commander's reluctance was not fueled merely by inter-service rivalry, though that may have played a role. The Marines were owned by the Navy and as such trained and oriented toward naval support-type missions such as guarding naval installations, serving as shipboard gun crews, maintaining order aboard ships, and acting as the nucleus of landing parties as needed. They had their own distinctive uniforms, methods of operation, and sea-oriented lingo. The language barrier could be easily overcome, but the special resupply of the unique Marine "forest green" uniform could prove problematic for an already stressed supply system struggling to

supply the needs of the greatest overseas American military force ever deployed. This possible glitch in the arrangement was later overcome by Pershing's decision that all members of the AEF would wear the ubiquitous Army olive drab wool uniform. Once their forest green stateside-issue uniforms wore out, the Marines were to be uniformed like the rest of his troops. Naturally, the proud Marines did not take kindly to the requirement to don the olive drab of the Army. Perhaps in protest, or simply to maintain some semblance of distinction between themselves and the Doughboys, the Marines often replaced the buttons on the issued Army olive drab tunic with the eagle, globe, and anchor Marine buttons from their worn-out uniform coats. Lacking authorized collar insignia, some Marines mimicked Army collar brass by attaching Marine Corps tunic buttons to their collars. Once again, Josephus Daniels came to the rescue late in the war with the authorization for his Marines to wear a set of distinctively Marine collar disks.

Pershing's major concern revolved around the nature of the Marine Corps itself. It was a small organization, for the most part organized into a series of small, widely scattered detachment and

company-sized units. They lacked both large units and tactical and strategic experience with such units. Whenever the need arose, the Marine Corps customarily assembled a composite battalion from local companies and shipboard contingents within the supporting fleet for the conduct of land operations. Pershing reasoned that the deadly trenches of France would be an inappropriately fast-paced and murderous classroom for these "Soldiers of the Sea," unaccustomed as they were to large scale ground operations and given the massive scale of this nightmare that was the war in France.

The truth told, the Army, too, lacked extensive experience in raising and managing large units in the field. And it had no experience with the brutal realities of trench warfare and its deadly technological innovations. Since the great conflagration of 1861-1865, the United States Army had been a relatively small force itself, primarily spread out in coastal defense fortifications, or in small, isolated detachments on the western frontier dealing with the Indians. The Army had at least participated in the Punitive Expedition of 1916-1917 into Mexico, the United States' effort to capture and punish the bandit Pancho Villa for his bloody incursions onto United States soil. Pershing was fortunate to have led this partially successful venture, which gave him and the United States Army badly needed practice in the mobilization, organization, training, transportation, supply, coordination, and leadership of units above the regimental level. Such knowledge would be critical to success on the Western Front.

The entry of the United States into the war brought other significant challenges to its uniformed services. The sheer size, scope, and nature of the deadly fighting in France and projected demands for rapid and massive force expansion were issues with which neither the Army nor the much smaller Marine Corps were adequately prepared to deal. One of the immediate shortfalls identified was the lack of junior officers to lead these greatly expanded forces. The Marine Corps was no exception. For a while in France they were forced to rely on the United States Army for platoon-level officers to fill their needs. Like the troops they were called upon to lead, many of these young lieutenants were "green," having only months before graduated from one of the hastily established officer training camps. Junior officers were not all the Marine Corps lacked. In the summer of 1918, the Second Division's Fourth Brigade (Marine) was commanded by an Army general, Brigadier General James G. Harbord. The Marines seem to have taken a liking to their tough-minded, no-nonsense Army commander. They began to look upon him as an "honorary Marine." In 1923 when an American battle monument was dedicated in Belleau Wood, it was Army General James G. Harbord who had led the Marines during this famous battle who made the dedicatory speech. At the same time he was officially made an honorary Marine. There were a number of examples of Marine Corps officers leading United States Army units as well.

To prove that "turnabout is fair play," in June 1918 Marine Brigadier General John A. Lejeune arrived from the states and was given command of a brigade in the Army's Thirty-Second Division. On 28 July 1918, he was given command of the Army's Second Division, a post he held until the division was demobilized in August 1919. After the war, Lejeune served as Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps from June 1920 to March 1929.

In the spring of 1917, Oscar Sexton Goodwin was not concerned with such weighty matters. For him, like thousands of

other soon-to-be military service members, things of a more immediate and practical nature took precedence, like which branch of service to enter. Why Goodwin chose the Navy is unknown. Perhaps the Navy offered him the best chance to further his interest in medicine. Or maybe he thought he could avoid the shells, poison gas, machine gun fire, mud, and death of the trenches while serving out the war working at a hospital on shore, or aboard a hospital ship. If this was his intention, what awaited him was the total opposite.

Whatever his reasons, Goodwin raised his right hand at the Navy recruiting office in Raleigh, North Carolina, on 1 June 1917, less than two months after President Wilson's request to Congress for a declaration of war, and enlisted in the United States Navy. At the time of his enlistment as a Hospital Apprentice Second Class, a rank he held for 123 days, Oscar Sexton Goodwin, serial number 1748700, was listed as a single man aged 22 years and seven months. Unlike most naval enlistees at the time, his service card indicates he was enlisted in the regular United States Navy rather than in the United States Naval Reserve, though this may have been a misprint. For ten days after his enlistment, Goodwin was "At home Awaiting Orders." He did not have to wait long. On Sunday, 17 June 1917, he reported for duty.

From information found on his "World War Record of Lineal Descendants of Confederate Veterans," a form provided by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Goodwin revealed he received his initial training at Paris [later, "Parris"] Island, the Marine Corps basic training facility. His official World War service card provided a slightly different answer, stating he received his first two months of training at the Naval Hospital, Port Royal, South Carolina. What type of initial recruit training, if any, he received there is not known, nor whether he attended a formal course of instruction for his medical training or simply received it as on-the-job training (OJT).

The location of his first posting should have been a clue to his eventual permanent assignment. The Naval Hospital at Port Royal was a short boat ride from the Marine Corps' largest east coast initial training camp. The parent service of the Marine Corps, the United States Navy, has always provided them with a significant slice of its required support, among these being schools, transportation, Chaplains, and Medical Corpsmen. Whether Goodwin knew from the beginning that he would be assigned to support the Marines in the bloody trenches of France is unknown. But on 19 August 1917, he was attached to the Sixth Marine Regiment, likely to its Third Battalion, at Quantico, Virginia, where he received further training. He was apparently a quick learner, for he was promoted to the rank of Hospital Apprentice First Class in four months on 2 October 1917. Two months later he was elevated to Pharmacist's Mate Third Class. Less than five months later he was promoted to Pharmacist's Mate Second Class, and three and a half months later, to Pharmacist's Mate First Class, the rank he held at discharge.

The Sixth Regiment was organized at Quantico on 11 July 1917 under the command of Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Albertus W. Caitlin. It consisted of three battalions comprised of 12 numbered infantry companies. Nearly all of the Sixth Regiment's senior officers and Non-Commissioned Officers were long-service professionals, whereas most of its junior officers and nearly all its privates were new enlistees. Though short on experience, Colonel Caitlin was comforted by their enthusi-

asm and brightness. He estimated that some 60 per cent were college men.

Navy Medical Corpsmen serving with the Marines in the AEF wore the same forest green winter field uniform as did their infantry compatriots, at least until they wore out. The severe conditions under which the members of the AEF served caused uniforms to wear out quickly. In January 1918, in order to ease the strain on the AEF's supply system and avoid battlefield confusion with the German "feld grau" (field gray) uniform, a pragmatic General Pershing ordered that all personnel serving with the AEF would be attired in the standard olive drab (OD) field uniform of the United States Army. The Marines were told they could wear their distinctive forest green until existing supplies of the uniform in theater were exhausted. Pershing may have enjoyed placing the proud "Soldiers of the Sea" in Army olive drab, but the move was certainly logical.

Some members of the Marine Corps argued then, and some still insist, that Pershing put the Marines in Army olive drab out of spite. They state that he had resented being forced to accept them into the AEF due to political pressure and without regard to practicality. Their presence in the planned AEF, which would be expected to conduct large scale land operations, was certainly not the norm for the Corps. Their land contributions to America's wars to date had been relatively small. Only in the Mexican and Civil Wars did the Marines have as much as a battalion-size unit engaged in extensive land operations over an extended period of time. But that was not the fault of the Marine Corps. One must remember the purpose for which the Corps was originally formed by the Navy. The Marines existed to support the Navy primarily as land based security and gun crews aboard ships. They were neither organized nor trained for extensive, prolonged land warfare. That was the job of the Army, and Pershing knew this. In his mind, the Marines were no more qualified to take on the role of soldiers than soldiers were qualified to man naval guns aboard a capital ship.

Admittedly, without the persistence and political influence of Navy Secretary Josephus Daniels and his Assistant Secretary, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Marines would likely have spent what was until 1939 known as the "World War" in small units serving as ship's detachments, guarding embassies and Navy yards, and policing the Caribbean and other undesirable spots around the world. Truly, the United States Marine Corps owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Josephus Daniels. More than any other man, Josephus Daniels helped to embed the Marine Corps into the national psyche of the American public.

The total number of Marines and naval personnel attached to the AEF was a tiny fraction of the more than two million men and women that made up the lion's share of Uncle Sam's forces overseas. According to Brigadier General Albertus W. Caitlin's 1919 book with the unabashedly self-promoting title, "With the Help of God and a Few Marines," Marine Corps Commandant Major



**Navy Hospital Corpsmen treating injured Marine.**

General George Barnett reported a total of 21,323 Marine enlisted men and 540 officers were sent to France, comprising about one per cent of the total AEF force (*The United States Marine Corps in the First World War*, Part 1 of 2 [1920], by Major Edwin N. McClellan, Officer in Charge, Marine Corps Historical Division, 1920, claims that 29,775 Marines were deployed to France). For the period 1 April through 1 September 1918, he reported total casualties of 4,093, or 23 per cent. He was quick to point out that the percentage was of gross Marine strength in France. Only the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments were used in combat, while the 11th and 13th Marine Regiments were utilized in non-combat roles.

Goodwin and his fellow medical support personnel of the Army and Marines were faced with a monumental task indeed. The size of United States infantry companies during World War I was considerably larger than in the past. The companies of Pershing's AEF regiments consisted of some over 250 men, with American regiments and divisions averaging twice the size of their allies, or of those of the Central powers against whom they fought. Marine units were brought up to the required standard. Each Marine company was supposed to have from two to five Hospital Apprentices with a senior Pharmacist's Mate as senior aid man. Battalion aid stations were typically manned by five to seven Hospital Apprentices or junior Pharmacist's Mates with a Chief Pharmacist's Mate in charge to assist the Navy doctors and surgeons assigned to supplement those at regiment.

Navy Hospital Corpsmen were dedicated to the Marines with whom they served, and the feeling was mutual. The Marines depended on them for medical aid when the chips were down and the bravery of the supposedly "non-combatant" Hospital Corpsman was universally recognized and appreciated. In Caitlin's book, one Marine was quoted as saying,

I want to give credit to those hospital corps men [sic] of the Navy, who worked with the Marines. Those fellows deserve a gold medal or the highest award they can receive. Why, before we could reach our objectives they were right out on the field picking up and tagging the wounded. They didn't mind the danger and did their duty without protection of any kind. They were unarmed and could not shoot a German if they did run across one.

The writer's last statement about hospital corpsmen being unarmed must be taken with a grain of salt. Some are known to have armed themselves with side arms for both personal protection and for the protection of the wounded they tended. Whether Pharmacist's Mate Oscar Sexton Goodwin armed himself is unknown.

According to McClellan's history of the Marine Corps in the World War, 60 officers of the Navy Medical Corps, 12 officers of the Dental Corps, 500 enlisted Hospital Corpsmen, and 11 Navy Chaplains were sent to France and served with the Marines in the American Expeditionary Forces. The evidence of the bravery of enlisted Hospital Corpsmen can be seen in their casualty statistics and the number of awards for personal heroism they earned while serving with the Marines. Of the 350 Navy Hospital Corpsmen detailed to the Second Division's 4th Brigade (Marine), nearly half were killed, wounded, or captured in their approximately ten months of service during some of the fiercest fighting on the Western Front. Hospital Corpsmen received two Medals of Honor, 55 Navy Crosses, 31 Army Distinguished Service

Crosses, two Navy Distinguished Service Medals, two Army Distinguished Service Medals, 237 Silver Star Certificates (forerunner of the Silver Star Medal), and a host of foreign personal decorations. Their 684 total individual awards make the Navy Hospital Corps, by some accounts, the most decorated American unit of World War I.

The Sixth Marine Regiment arrived in France incrementally in late 1917 and early 1918. Goodwin and his contingent of the Sixth Marines loaded aboard the United States Navy transport *USS Von Steuben* and sailed for France, landing at Bordeaux on 11 November 1917. He and his mates were destined to serve overseas from that day until their return to the United States on 25 December 1918. He was honorably discharged at Hampton Roads, Virginia, on Monday, 11 August 1919, as a Pharmacist's Mate First Class. But, there was much yet to transpire before young Oscar Sexton Goodwin could once again breathe the air of his beloved Wake County.

Goodwin and his unit were initially assigned for training in the Vosges Mountains. By March 1918 the Marines and their medical personnel were training in trench warfare in the Toulon Sector near Verdun. The training was more realistic than many had anticipated. During their time in the trenches, the regiment lost 33 men killed in action, most of whom died on 13 April 1918 when the regiment's 74th Company was gassed.

The front line experience they received served them well. In the spring of 1918, the Germans mounted their last major offensive of the war. In late May, the Sixth was called forward to shore up the French lines near Chateau-Thierry. On arrival, they took up positions southwest of an old hunting preserve known as Belleau Wood with orders to clear it. Before the German-infested wood could be cleared, the flanking village of Bouresches had to be neutralized. On the morning of 6 June 1918, the Sixth stepped off in an attack to clear the town and southern half of the wood. What followed was a bloody near month-long struggle that became a landmark battle in Marine Corps history. Never in their 143 year history had the Marines been so heavily engaged on so large a scale for so prolonged a time. It was their biggest battle to date and arguably, with the help of the press, the battle that established and crystalized the Corps' reputation in the minds of the American public.

During this on-going battle the name of the Marine Corps became a household word, thanks to Floyd Gibbon, an embedded newspaper correspondent from the *Chicago Tribune*. Gibbon accompanied the Marines in their assault through 400 yards of tall green winter wheat and was severely wounded, losing an eye. Taking advantage of a perceived technicality in General Pershing's news blackout for the "Army," the Marine high command and Gibbon set about to effect an "end run" around the rule in order to send stories back to the States glorifying the exploits of the Marines. With no news from any service but the Marine Corps, the news starved American public was soon enamored with this small, heretofore relatively little known service. The publicity stood them in good stead then and for years to come. Echoing other papers around the country, the *Charlotte News* of 26 June 1918 carried this headline in eye-catching all-capital letters: "MARINE CORPS NOW THE TOAST OF THE NATION ... RECENT EXPLOITS UP TO TRADITION." The accompanying story was quite extensive and most laudatory.

The adulation of the American press was richly deserved and very much welcomed by the Marines. Always in the shadow of



**The Battle of Belleau Wood**

their parent organization, some in the Marine Corps had long felt their status as a sub-unit of the Navy more akin to that of the "red-headed step-child" than a full-fledged member of the family. The Marine Corps had long suffered from a general lack of awareness among the American populace. When asked during an oral interview for the State Archives of North Carolina why he had enlisted in the Marines rather than the Army during World War I, Mr. Conley Cook of Cabarrus County, an Army National Guard and Mexican Border veteran and the last surviving North Carolina Marine veteran of World War I, admitted that he knew virtually nothing about the Corps before joining, but figured he had already been in the Army and just wanted to try something different. To a degree, this lack of familiarity with the Marine Corps persisted to World War II, as evidenced by oral interviews with Marine Corps veterans of that era. The Corps needed publicity then and later to survive, not simply in order to attract the annually required number of new enlistees, but to ward off attempts in Congress over the years to disband it as expensive and redundant.

While the Marines were scoring a touchdown with the American public, the Army high command dropped the publicity ball. During the weeks of heavy fighting required to take Belleau Wood, the Army fought hard protecting the Marines' flanks, supported their determined attacks with artillery, provided the Second U.S. Engineers to fight side-by-side with the Marines as force-multipliers, and then relieved the battle-weary Marines for a week beginning 15 June with the "Rock of the Marne" Third Division's veteran Seventh Infantry ("The Cottonbalers" of the Battle of New Orleans fame) to help seal the joint Army-Marine victory. Despite all this, the Army's contributions went largely unheralded. Even when the final victory came on 26 June, and Marine Major Maurice Shearer sent his now famous signal, "Woods now entirely — US Marine Corps," the Army remained relatively silent about its own sacrifices and accomplishments. Army headquarters created a publicity vacuum back home that was quickly filled by newspaper stories of Marine Corps achievements and bravery. Clearly, the Army brass had failed to recognize something their Marine Corps brothers-in-arms already knew.

The publicity received by the Marines for their part in the Chateau Thierry/Belleau Wood/Bouresches fighting was justly earned. They had fought hard and with spirit, and their casualty lists showed it. During their 40-plus days of involvement in the

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long campaign, the Sixth Regiment suffered casualties amounting to 2,143 men killed, wounded, and captured. For their hard fighting, the regiment was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palm by the French government, and the name of Belleau Wood was officially changed to that of "Bois de Brigade de la Marine" in their honor.

It was in the early stages of the initial attack on Belleau Wood that an incident occurred that earned a medal for PhM3c Oscar Sexton Goodwin. It involved his commanding officer, Colonel (later Brigadier General) Albertus Caitlin. Caitlin was somewhat of a legend in the Marine Corps already. An 1890 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Second Lieutenant Caitlin had been in command of the Marine detachment aboard the *USS Maine* when it mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor in 1898, touching off the Spanish-American War. Afterwards appointed to lead the Marines aboard the *USS St. Louis*, it was Caitlin who led the first Marines to land ashore in Cuba. As a major, Caitlin was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914. It was no surprise that he received command of a Marine regiment bound for action in France.



**French Croix de Guerre with Palm**

On 6 June 1918, as his men began their advance on Belleau Wood, Caitlin stated that he stood "on a little rise of ground protected by a low line of bushes about 300 yards from the woods ... From this point of vantage I watched the advance through my [field] glasses." Shortly after taking up his position he was spotted by a German sniper who put a bullet into the Colonel's chest. Describing the incident, Caitlin recounted that "the bullet felt exactly as though some one [sic] had struck me heavily with a sledge. It swung me clear around and toppled me over on the ground... The bullet went clean through my right lung, in at the front and out at the back, drilling a hole straight through me." It was estimated that the shot must have come from some 600 yards away. Since Caitlin was standing near a machine gun position, some theorized that he had been hit by a stray shot meant for the machine gunners. Whatever the sniper's intent, Caitlin was gravely wounded and in an exposed position. PhM3c Oscar Sexton Goodwin, USN, and Sergeant Sydney Colford, Jr., USMC, were credited with saving Caitlin's life by going into harm's way to evacuate their commander.

The two men were cited for bravery in a citation issued by Second Division Commander Major General Omar Bundy. Found on page 40, Second Division General Order Number 40, it reads,

At imminent risk of their lives, under shell and machine gun fire, were instrumental in removing the Regimental Commander when he was struck down by a sniper's bullet early in the operations 6th of June 1918. These men removed the Regimental Commander from further danger regardless of the fire sweeping the point where he fell; meeting a sudden crisis promptly and completely. This in the Bois de Belleau, 6 June 1918, signed Omar Bundy, Major-General, U.S.A., Commanding.

In the narrative of his famous book, *With the Help of God and a Few Marines*, written in 1919, Caitlin made no direct mention of the men who saved his life. He mentions the Regimental Surgeon, Dr. Wrey G. Farwell, coming to minister to and evacuate him, and the fact that four stretcher bearers lifted his 215 pound frame to carry him from the trench in which he had been laid for protection. The stretcher bearers were quite likely Navy Hospital Corpsmen at this time, since the practice of detailing Marines from line units to act as stretcher bearers did not take effect until after Belleau Wood. Caitlin goes into detail to mention that Sergeant Colford went to the nearby village of Lucy to secure an ambulance for his wounded commander, but no mention of Goodwin.

The book's appendix contains an annotated list of Marines of the Second Division who received awards. Goodwin is listed along with Sergeant Colford and a great many others:

Pharmacist Mate 3rd Class OSCAR S. GOODWIN,  
U. S. N., 6th Marines:

Sergeant SYDNEY COLFORD, JR., 6th Marines:

At the imminent risk of their lives, under shell and machine gun fire, were instrumental in removing the Regimental Commander when he was struck down by a sniper's bullet early in the operations which resulted in the capture and occupation of our objective on the 6th of June, 1918. These men removed the Regimental Commander from further danger regardless of the fire sweeping the point where he fell, meeting a sudden crisis promptly and completely.

Though slighted in his commander's published post-war account, Goodwin's official service card on file in the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh carries the notation: "Commended by the Secretary of the Navy for extraordinary heroism shown while serving with the Sixth Regiment Marine Corps, France. Also for aiding in the removal of the Regimental Commander when wounded at risk of his own life on 6-6-18."

The *New York Times* of 21 October 1918 carried the headline, "Navy Men Share Glory of Marines." In the story, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels commended the service of 14 Pharmacist's Mates and others for gallantry in battle. The article's subtitle read, "Oscar S. Goodwin Leads List for Rescue Under Fire..."

In basically a re-statement of the citation found in Second Division General Order Number 40, "The Official U.S. Bulletin, Volume 3," dated 20 March 1919 and published by the U.S. Committee on Public Information, Goodwin's accomplishment was again touted under the heading, "Soldiers Honored by Pershing For Heroism" stating,

Oscar S. Goodwin, pharmacist's mate third class [sic], United States Navy, at imminent risk of his life under shell and machine-gun fire was instrumental in removing the regimental commander, who was wounded early in the operations, which resulted in the capture and occupation of certain towns. He was struck down by a sniper's bullet, and Goodwin removed him from further danger regardless of the fire sweeping the point where he lay. Father, Asa T. Goodwin, Apex, N.C.

But in the days following the horrific events surrounding the

capture of Belleau Wood and Bovesches, Goodwin knew nothing of his impending citation and various recognitions for bravery. He and his fellow Marines and sailors desperately needed rest, and the unit needed replacements. Unfortunately, there was not much time to rest, re-fit, and receive and train replacements after Belleau Wood. Their brief respite in the Marne Valley ended in July when the regiment along with its parent organization, the Second Division, was attached to the French XX Corps to conduct a counter attack near Soissons in the Aisne-Marne area. The area around Viller-Cotterets was in chaos due to a German salient in the lines.

On 19 July 1918, the second day of the attack, the Sixth Regiment was committed, but was stopped short of its objective by intense artillery and machine gunfire. All units of the division suffered extremely high casualties, estimated by some at 50 to 70 per cent in all regiments. In order to care for the wounded, Regimental Assistant Surgeon Dr. Joel T. Boone and his Medical Corpsmen took over a large cave recently abandoned by the Germans. The crude shelter, in the vicinity of Vierzy, could accommodate 350 wounded. At one point, a shell exploded sending shrapnel into a wounded soldier on which Boone was working and collapsing a portion of a cave's wall sending a shower of dirt and rock down nearly burying Boone. Fortunately, one of his Hospital Corpsmen rushed to his aid and saved him. That man was Oscar Sexton Goodwin.

At one point in the fighting at Soissons an urgent plea for help came from the regimental headquarters company located in a ravine. They were being decimated by shell fire and needed immediate medical help. Assistant Surgeon Boone and several of his Hospital Corpsmen answered the call. The only shelter, such as it was, happened to be behind a low stone fence beside a cemetery. The wall was steadily being chipped away by shell fire, but the sailors bravely carried on with the treatment of the increasing numbers of wounded. At one point they were strafed by a passing German airplane, but continued their work. When it was discovered that, due to the intensity of German fire, many severely wounded Marines could not be reached during daylight hours, Goodwin among others volunteered to retrieve them during the night. Both Boone and PhM2c Goodwin were cited for bravery as a result of their work at Soissons under very difficult circumstances. Goodwin's actions later contributed to his receiving the Navy Cross for heroism.

The loss of 1,431 men during the Aisne-Marne Offensive made 19 July 1918 the single bloodiest day of the war for the Sixth Marine Regiment. If PhM2c Goodwin had not become expert in his craft during his baptism of fire at Toulon or at Belleau Wood, he certainly had at Soissons. Again, the regiment received the Croix de Guerre.

The blood bath of Soissons was followed by a month of badly needed rest. At the end of this time came an assignment to the American First Army and preparations for the first all American offensive action of the war, a double envelopment against the German held St. Mihiel salient. The regiment was assigned to support the Third Brigade which was to make the initial assault. As luck would have it, the attack on 12 September 1918 coincided with a planned German withdrawal. The Sixth Regiment went "over the top" into a desolate open area at 0500 hours on the 12th. Dr. Boone and his Corpsmen followed close behind in knee-deep mud to establish treatment and evacuation facilities for the wounded. By day's end, the regiment was on the

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outskirts of Thiaucourt where Dr. Boone took possession of an abandoned schoolhouse and found a horse-drawn German ambulance, both of which he pressed into service for his aid station. The Sixth's sharpest action came on 15 September when it incurred over a hundred killed and about 500 wounded in heavy fighting defending Thiaucourt. Godwin was conspicuous in the performance of his duties. On 31 December 1918, he was cited for his courage and devotion to duty at Thiaucourt by Major General John A. Lejeune, then commanding the Second Division, as follows:

In action against the enemy, worked just behind the front line in an open field without shelter or protection under heavy and continuous fire from machine aerial and large caliber guns, administering to the many wounded comrades and never once hesitated, even when enemy fire was most deadly, to respond to great personal danger to all cases in his sector. He has distinguished himself in every engagement in which his regiment has participated and been repeatedly recommended for gallantry. This at Thiaucourt, 15 September 1918.

The next big operation saw the Second and Thirty-Sixth Divisions loaned to the French. The French Fourth Army was to assault Blanc Mont Ridge with support from the two American divisions. Fighting in the Champagne Sector between Somme-Py and Souain from 3-17 October 1918, the men of the Second Division fought valiantly to capture their objectives, but at high cost. A third and final Croix de Guerre was awarded the Sixth Marine Regiment. Once again, Goodwin, now a PhM1c, distinguished himself. His citation for the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, given under Order Number 13.504 "p", dated 14 February 1919, General Headquarters, French Armies of the East read as follows: "On 4 October 1918, near Somme-Py, he



**Navy Hospital Corpsmen Treating Injured Marine.**

[Goodwin] delivered an important message to an advanced first-aid station under a violent fire of artillery and machine guns, thus permitting the establishment of different evacuation posts."

Oscar Goodwin was a special man among special men. But he was not immune to human emotions. One story he shared took place while he was in France. No date was given, so it is not known if the incident occurred before, during, or after his time in combat. He told of happening into a reading room, probably one sponsored by the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, or Knights of Columbus, took a seat and began to flip through a copy of *American Magazine*. Much to his surprise, he saw a picture of his beloved pastor from back home and an article about his church. The article, "An Ideal Country Preacher," told of the work of Reverend William Olive, who had always been an inspiration to the young Navy Hospital Corpsman. Reading about his work and the church in which he had grown up caused him to be temporarily choked up inside. For a brief

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moment, a long way from home and in a strange country in the midst of a cataclysmic war, a lonely aspiring doctor breathed a prayer of thanks that he had been privileged to grow up in such a church and community. He longed to return to that community one day and minister to the health needs of the people he missed so dearly. He would one day fulfill that dream, but first there was a war to survive.

The Meuse Argonne, the final offensive of the war, and the largest military operation ever for American forces, stretched between Verdun and the heavily forested Ardennes area to the north. General John J. Pershing and his forces pressed hard through a narrow front and fanned out as they broke through the German lines. The Second Division advanced a remarkable six miles on the first day, outpacing the relatively inexperienced Eightieth Division on its left. Doctor Boone and his men were in on the final attack at the Meuse River on 1 November. A deafening, relentless artillery bombardment erupted at 0400 hours along a five mile front. Army infantry brigades, including the Sixth Marines, went “over the top” into thick, acrid smoke from the barrage. Though there was intense fighting, many of the Germans seemed to understand that the war was nearing its end and chose to surrender rather than die needlessly. A steady stream of German prisoners began to pour into the village of Sommerance, many helping wounded German comrades, others assisting wounded Americans! German medical officers and aid men accompanied them and set up aid stations. On 4 November 1918, the Second Division’s two field hospitals were advanced to a chateau at Landreville. During the next week, until the Armistice, the surgeons operated on 282 wounded men.



**PhM1c Oscar Sexton Goodwin, USN (attached to 6th Marines). Probably taken on or shortly before his return to the United States.**

[Photo courtesy of Bill and Dot Goodwin]

When the blessed Armistice came on 11 November 1918, the Sixth Marine Regiment was assigned to the American Third Army to spearhead the Allied march to Coblenz, Germany, for occupation duty. Goodwin and his compatriots performed this duty from 18 December 1918-19 May 1919. In June they sailed for home. The regiment was deactivated at Quantico, Virginia, on 12 August 1919 after marching in victory parades in New York City and Washington, DC.

Most of the official recognition of Oscar Sexton Goodwin’s battlefield actions came well after the war. On 11 November 1920, the third anniversary of his landing at Bordeaux, France, a letter was typed in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy in Washington, DC, and sent to Oscar Sexton Goodwin. It read,

The President of the United States takes pleasure in

presenting the NAVY CROSS to Oscar Sexton Goodwin, PhM. 1c, U.S.N. for services during the World War as set forth in the following; Citation: For extraordinary heroism in action at Thiaucourt, 15 September 1918, with 6th Regiment U. S. Marines. Worked just behind the front line in the open field under heavy fire, administering to the wounded. Also in action at Vierzy, on 19 July 1918. When a number of severely wounded Marines could not be rescued, it was necessary to rescue them at night. Goodwin volunteered for the work, and was responsible for clearing the battlefield before morning. On these and all other engagements of the regiment he displayed heroism and courage.

For the President, Josephus Daniels.

In a letter from Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, dated 11 February 1922, Goodwin learned that he had been awarded a “Silver Star Certificate” authorizing him to wear a Silver Star on the service ribbon of his World War Victory Medal. When the Silver Star Medal was instituted in 1932, personnel who had been awarded a Silver Star Certificate for service during the World War were authorized to make application for the new medal.

As late as 1931, Goodwin continued to receive recognition of his military service of 1917-1919. A letter dated 27 October 1931 from the Adjutant General of the Army to Goodwin informed him that the French Military Attache in Washington, DC, had been instructed to prepare “Croix de Guerre Diplomas” for issuance to officers and men of the United States Navy who had been awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government for individual acts of heroism while serving with the American Expeditionary Forces in France during the World War (Note: The war did not become “World War I” until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939).



**The Navy Cross**

In the book *The President's Doctor, An Insider's View of Three First Families*, author Milton F. Heller, Jr., described Lieutenant (Doctor) Joel T. Boone, United States Navy, with whom Goodwin served in France, as “the most highly decorated member of the naval medical service.” Among his awards was the Army’s Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in Belleau Wood. During his post-war Navy medical career, Boone served as physician to three Presidents (Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover). When World War II came, Boone served as a medical officer aboard a destroyer, and was credited as being the first American to step ashore in Japan at the end of the war. This occurred as a consequence of his being sent on a mission to obtain the release of American and Allied prisoners of war. After his retirement from the Navy as an Admiral, Boone headed a landmark medical survey of the coal industry and ultimately became the Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration.

Heller wrote of Oscar Sexton Goodwin in his book commenting on his Belleau Wood exploits stating, “This was only the first of many courageous acts Goodwin performed, and Boone

repeatedly recommended him for awards. A friendship developed, and with Boone's help, Goodwin later attended medical school and took up practice in his native North Carolina." The Belleau Wood incident involving Goodwin Heller described took place at 1700 hours on 6 June. Lieutenant (Assistant Surgeon) Joel T. Boone observed the Sixth Marines advancing through the wheat from behind a hedge near his two dressing stations located in either end of a large barn on a farm known as Petit Montgivaault. Petit Montgivaault was located off the Paris-Metz Road at the point of a triangle formed by the villages of Lucy-le-Bocage and Bouresches with Belleau Wood. All of a sudden he saw PhM3c Goodwin come running up from a ravine into the orchard near one of the dressing stations. He grabbed a stretcher and ran back through a hailstorm of machine gun and artillery fire into the wheat field. Goodwin repeated this remarkable feat no less than four times saving many Marines under his care, one of which was his regimental commander.

On 23 April 1919, Dr. Boone wrote a letter from his office at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, Washington, DC, to PhM1c Goodwin, then stationed at the Naval Hospital, New London, Connecticut. He started his missive with an apology for his tardy response to Goodwin's letter of 8 December 1919 relating illness as the culprit. Boone went on to say, "I cannot tell you how much I appreciate what you have said my association with you has meant to you," relating how much he would like to be able to say it to him in person. He reminisced about their service together in France saying how much working with the young Pharmacist's Mate had meant to him. He confided that, "I confidently tell you that your presence with me on those little secret trips away up to the front line often gave me the courage that I needed to successfully carry out my missions." He complimented Goodwin saying, "I trusted your coolness and your intentions and knew that if anything happened I could absolutely rely upon you to carry on my work or to have gotten me back to a place of safety."

Doctor Boone was not the only one to recognize Goodwin's accomplishments. His exploits were spoken of in an address, "Pharmacists in the War," read before the 1919 convention of the Minnesota State Pharmaceutical Association in St. Paul on 25 February 1919.

After his discharge from the Navy, Goodwin returned to the home he loved so much. The 1920 Census of North Carolina indicates he was a 25 year old living with his parents and seven siblings in the White Oak Township of Wake County, North Carolina, in that year. By 1921 he was enrolled as a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The school yearbook, *The Yackety Yack*, revealed that this man who stood so tall on the battlefields of France was actually a mere five feet four inches tall. It indicated he was quite active on campus, being a member of the Medical Society, Wake County Club, Mars Hill Club, and AEF Club. Since he was listed as Vice President of the Senior Class, we can deduce that he must have completed two to three years of college before his enlistment in 1917. It described him as "never downhearted, peppy, vivacious, eager to win." They noted his many awards and outstanding service with the Marines in France, and stated they believed "him to be one of the most practical men in the class. His level head and a spirit of daring with ability to handle any situation arising will carry him over all obstacles safe to a seat in Valhalla."

By the time of the 1930 Census of North Carolina, Goodwin

was residing in Apex, White Oak Township, with his wife Elizabeth, son William S., age 4½, and daughter Jacquelyn E., age 2½. The census indicated two adult boarders, possibly hired hands, also living with the family.

Doctor Goodwin served the people of Apex and the surrounding area for 52 years, from 1924 until 1976. He practiced medicine to within days of his death. He maintained his family practice office on Salem Street above A. V. Baucom's store. He was a beloved physician. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Dr. Goodwin often accepted hams, chickens, vegetables, and other such items in payment. He was active in organized medicine and community affairs throughout his life. His wife Elizabeth was a nurse and homemaker. Doctor Goodwin was elected to the North Carolina State Board of Health on October 1960 by the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina, approved by the Governor, and served until 1963.

Oscar Sexton Goodwin was born in 1894 and died at home on 22 April 1976 at the age of 81. He was interred in the Apex City Cemetery. His wife Elizabeth, born 1902, followed him in 1987. Through the estate of Oscar S. and Elizabeth S. Goodwin, their four children endowed a distinguished professorship in family medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in their honor.

We will never know the horrors this young doctor-to-be experienced on the battlefield, how they affected him psychologically, or to what extent. But, one thing is for sure, they imbued him with an intense desire to dedicate his life to healing, and for that, generations of Apex citizens are thankful.

#### **Awards and Citations:**

- Navy Cross (awarded 11 November 1920)
- Croix de Guerre (Awarded on 3 July 1919)
- Silver Star (for Victory Medal) (27 June 1919)
- Second Division Citation (for actions on 6 June 1918)
- Second Division Citation (Awarded for actions at Thiaucourt, 15 September 1918)

#### **Battles:**

- Verdun (15 March 1918)
- Bos de Belleau and Bouresche (June 1918)
- St. Mihiel (12-15 September 1918)
- Blanc Mont Ridge (3-10 October 1918)
- Meuse-Argonne (1-11 November 1918)
- Coblentz, Germany (Army of Occupation) (ca. December 1918-early 1919)

## **JACKSON'S SECRET TO SUCCESS IN BATTLE**

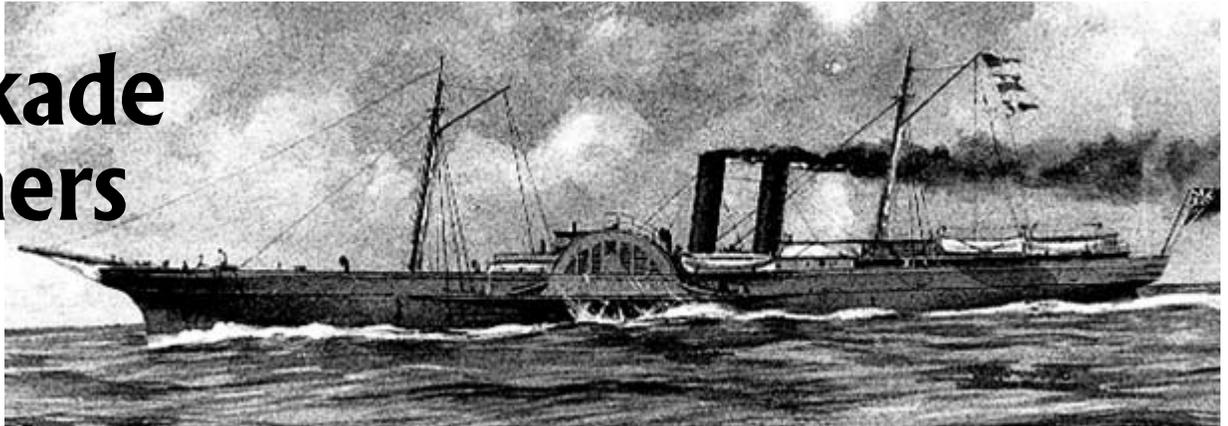
Stonewall Jackson, when issuing his orders, rarely told his commanders their unit's destinations or objectives. His commanders, such as A.P. Hill, were frustrated by this lack of information. To a close friend, Jackson once said the secret to his battlefield success was: "Mystery. Mystery is the secret of success." Using this approach, he was assured the enemy would be unable to determine his troop movements.

Typically he would send divisions forward without revealing their destinations. When a force reached a checkpoint or crossroads, its leader would be told what route to take. At each successive crossroads, he would be given a new message.

After following the final set of orders the unit would arrive at its objective. Needless to say, the enemy was surprised. It did not seem to bother Stonewall that his commanders were unable to fathom his reason for keeping them in the dark.

# Blockade Runners

Doing Their  
Ranching in  
the Evening



The Blockade Runner *Advance*, a “Clyde Steamer” owned by the State of North Carolina.

**“None of the blockaded defenders dared attempt a sortie because of the great number of attackers ....”**

Josephus — THE JEWISH WAR

She was a relatively new, “Clyde steamer,” designed in Scotland and built in Liverpool for her exacting purpose in 1864. Her iron hull was 220 feet long, 24 feet in the beam, and drew 11 and a half feet of water. Her two side wheels ... with feathering paddles ... drove her 372 gross tons through the water at better than 14 knots, fully loaded with 600 bales of cotton. She carried a turtleback forward to handle rough seas and she vented her steam exhaust underwater.

They called her the *Lynx*, and she had just completed her ninth successful run ... meaning she had paid for herself and been strictly profitable in her last seven trips for her owners, Fraser, Trenholm & Co. of Charleston and Liverpool.

It was late afternoon on 25 September 1864 when the *Lynx* left the steam cotton-press station on Eagles Island, across the river from Wilmington proper, and began her 20-some-odd-mile journey down the Cape Fear to Smithville (now Southport).

It was a “runner's night” with no moon as she slipped out of the New Inlet and steered north along the breaker line. But a Yankee picket boat spotted her and fired a rocket, to which the *Lynx* responded with a rocket of her own to confuse the Yankee warships. All involved were then instantly consigned to that mythical place called Bedlam.

As fate would have it, the *USS Howquah* had moved close inshore in the darkness, spotted the *Lynx*, and immediately engaged. Seeing the rockets, two other blockaders, the *USS Niphon* and the *USS Governor Buckingham*, rushed into the fray. Closing fast, these two warships took the *Lynx* under fire and as it turned out, the *Howquah* as well. Then, Confederate shore batteries opened on the *Howquah* as she attempted to close with the *Lynx* and take her as a prize. Battered by both hostile and friendly fire, the *USS Howquah* limped out of the fight, but the *Lynx* had already sustained eight solid hits, six below the waterline.

Aboard the *Lynx*, the crew shifted to salvage mode. The on-deck cotton bales went into the sea and the captain headed through the surf to beach his stricken ship and save his crew.

She ran onshore under the guns of the Half Moon Battery, about five miles above Fort Fisher. They took off the gold and the dispatches they were carrying and then fired the ship to keep her out of the hands of the Yankees. There were no casualties aboard the *Lynx*, but the *Howquah* had one dead and several wounded. Later, the Confederates policed up the cotton from the surf, so the cargo was not a total loss.

In the business equation of blockade-running, the loss of the *Lynx* was felt, of course, but she had paid for herself several times over; such was the commercial profit picture of this business. There were no casualties among her crew and she was not taken as a prize, so her 8-month life ended in the black, so to speak.

A brief description of how the South attempted to negate the Union sea blockade of their ports is herein indicated. Amusingly, it seems that the South did not organize its efforts until the second year of the war. Prior to that, blockade-running was the general purview of Europeans.

Simplistically, there were three key factors to the Confederate blockade-running enterprise: Destination, Equipment and Personnel.

The first can be characterized as a “system,” a general operational doctrine that blockade-runners utilized against the Union's strangling blockade, Winfield Scott's famous “Anaconda Plan.”

The physical environment was problematic from the outset. If for instance, a “runner” left Wilmington with a cargo of cotton, made it through the blockaders and delivered it to say, Liverpool, where he loaded munitions for the return trip, the time factor ... a month or two ... was the killer both logistically and economically, unless of course, the South had literally thousands of ships available. And even then, the economic incentives would be greatly diminished, besides facing that tactical bugaboo, “turn-around time.”

So destinations only a short run from the Confederate ports became a necessity. Since the South had no allies, either overt or covert, it was essential to take advantage of the “neutrality” of those nearby, foreign ports. Dummy “front” companies

By  
William  
Northrop

**“For Americans war is almost all of the time a nuisance, and military skill is a luxury like Mah-Jongg. But when the issue is brought home to them, war becomes as important, for the necessary period, as business or sport. And it is hard to decide which is likely to be the more ominous for the enemy -- an American decision that this is sport, or that it is business.”**

—D. W. BROGAN, *The American Character*

were established to “purchase” the smuggled cotton and to transship it back to Europe, affording the “neutrals” the requisite deniability. The same companies also “sold” munitions, hardware and consumer goods that were loaded aboard the blockade-runners for the return trip back into the Confederacy. The cost of cotton started at the Confederate port, jumped radically up at the transshipment port and took a mighty leap at the final, European or in some cases Union, destinations making the financial incentives extremely lucrative.

As the “system” evolved, Nassau (the Bahamas), St. George (Bermuda), and Halifax (Nova Scotia) were the ports-of-choice for east coast runners from Wilmington and Charleston. For the Southern ports in the Gulf of Mexico ... Mobile and Galveston ... Havana (Cuba) served the same purpose.

Clearly, the most successful “runners” were captained by Confederate Naval officers. Some contend that British Royal Navy officers, who took leave to run the blockade under assumed names, were equally dependable, but one can successfully argue against such a generality. The point being that since there was no International law against blockade-running, captured foreign crews were immediately released while Southerners were taken as POWs and sent to prison. Therefore, the argument holds, at the first sign of trouble, a foreign captain, more often than not, would heave to and surrender his vessel rather than brave the cannon fire that was sure to follow otherwise.

Hence, Captains like John Newland Maffitt and John Wilkinson, on who anecdotes will follow, were much in demand, having never lost a ship under their command.

And there was also the other side of the coin ... the odds. Not only was the massive US Navy much more numerous, they were smart, quick learners and quite capable of making life very exciting for the blockade-runners. The Federal blockaders formed a two-ring cordon of ships around a Southern port. The inner ring was positioned close into shore in hopes of catching a runner

**“Were the gods of destiny deliberately training a man for running the Federal blockade, they could not have selected better preparatory billets.”** —JIM DAN HILL, *Sea Dogs of the Sixties*

either entering or exiting the channel. The outer ring was stationed some miles off the coast and usually contained the fastest Yankee cruisers that intercepted those runners before they neared the port or after they had escaped the inner ring. Still other Yankee warships were stationed near the destination ports in Bermuda and the Bahamas. As effective as this looks on paper, the actual deployment of the Federal Navy, even in all their numbers and in these cordons, was flawed. In the end, approximately three-quarters of all runners got through.

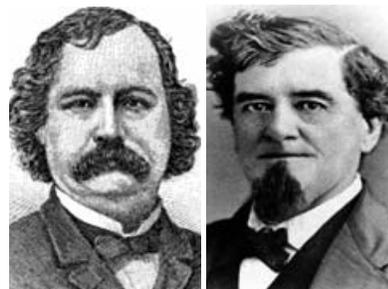
While the unarmed runners posed no threat to the Union Navy, there was an incentive for their capture beyond normal duty. Captured ships were taken as prizes and the crew of the Union vessel would share in prize money. One half of the prize money went to the Federal government and the other half was shared by the crew.

Captured vessels sold by the prize court ended up in the Yankee Navy or on the open market. In several cases, steamers purchased by individuals or business concerns were soon back in the blockade-running business; such was the financial lure.

There was a myriad of personalities involved in blockade-

running during the war. Those whose names have survived to be noted in our history were usually the famous or infamous, thus standing out amongst the players.

Two of the most renowned Confederate sea dogs were Captains John Newland Maffitt and John Wilkinson. Maffitt is perhaps better known as the commander of the great commerce raider, *CSS Florida*, and Wilkinson for his ambitious, but aborted raid on the Yankee prison at Johnson’s Island in an attempt to free 2,000 Southern POWs. Both, however, were very successful blockade-runners, who worked for wages from the Confederate



**John Wilkinson and John Newland Maffitt**

Government and thereby did not profit financially like the average captain.

Both men were products of the US Naval Midshipman Program, the forerunner of the Naval Academy. Both pulled duty with the US Coastal Survey while in the US Navy and both commanded American vessels before The Struggle. Both men resigned their Navy commissions when their states seceded.

Yet, there was even more commonality. During the war, both men served on Confederate ironclads (Maffitt commanded the *CSS Albemarle*, Wilkinson was First Officer of the *CSS Louisiana*); both commanded commerce raiders (Maffitt commanded the *CSS Florida*, Wilkinson commanded the *CSS Chickamauga*), and both men commanded legendary blockade-runners (Maffitt commanded the *CSS Owl*, Wilkinson commanded the *CSS Robert E. Lee*).

Maffitt and Wilkinson were good friends, going back to their Old Navy days, and, while on different assignments for the Confederate Navy, they ran into each other several times during The Struggle and even ended their war together in England. Both returned home a few years after the war; Maffitt to North Carolina and Wilkinson to Virginia, and both wrote successful books.

Fresh from his fruitful patrol off Sandy Hook and his encounter with the *USS Ericson* off the New Jersey coast ... the Yankee discretely withdrew into a fog bank to avoid a firefight with the *CSS Florida* ... John Maffitt sailed his fabled commerce raider into St. George, Bermuda, on 16 July 1863 for repairs, coaling and provisioning. Unlike the blockade-runners who frequented the neutral British port, the *Florida* was a warship and the authorities, bound by International Law, would allow her to load only enough coal to reach the closest Confederate port. With several Yankee warships stationed around the islands, Maffitt found himself stuck with his only option being a run into Wilmington.

As fate would have it, the blockade-runner *Robert E. Lee* under the command of John Wilkinson arrived in port having just completed a run out of Wilmington. The *Lee*’s coal bunkers were full of smokeless, English anthracite and, while he needed it,

Wilkinson felt that Maffitt needed it more.

In the midst of the Confederates sorting out the coal situation, a Yankee warship, the *USS Wachusett*, pulled into St. George and anchored near the *Florida*. Maffitt did not wait around to offer the Yankees opportunity, and with his bunkers full of English coal set out on 27 July 1863 after 11 days in port. The *CSS Florida* headed for Brest where Maffitt was confident he could refuel and repair without interference from the French authorities.

Wilkinson loaded a cargo on the *Lee* and departed St. George for Wilmington shortly thereafter. The crossing was smooth and he entered the Cape Fear at New Inlet as was his nominal routine, but once safely back, he had to refill his coal bunkers. The only fuel available was the soft, bituminous, North Carolina coal that produced thick smoke and delivered only about half the steam, driving the *Lee* at 7 to 8 knots instead of her usual 13 to 14. Wilkinson, no doubt, remembered the old adage that “No good turn goes unpunished.”

After loading a cargo of cotton and turpentine, Wilkinson took the *Lee* out of New Inlet, through the inner ring of blockaders and was making for the open sea when he spotted a Yankee warship trailing him. She was one of the fastest blockaders, the sloop-of-war *USS Iroquois*, and she was under full sail and steam, making for the *Lee* at better than 11 knots.

Wilkinson executed a tactical maneuver, setting a course directly away from the wind and thereby depriving the Yankee of her sail power. Still, the *Iroquois* closed on steam power alone. Meanwhile, the *Lee*'s crew was frantically chopping up anything that would burn in an effort to increase speed.

With the *Iroquois* still closing and Wilkinson considering tossing the Confederate gold and dispatches he was carrying, he suddenly remembered he had turpentine in his cargo. Setting up a relay line, the crew tore off wads of cotton, dipped them in turpentine and passed them down to the engine room. This did the trick. Within an hour, the *Lee* was making between 13 and 14 knots and pulling steadily away from the *Iroquois*. But the breather was short-lived.

The *Lee*'s engineer came bounding up on deck and explained that the burnt cotton lint had fouled the flues of the furnace and the speed could not be maintained. It was late afternoon, the *Lee*'s speed had fallen off and the *Iroquois* was gaining on the runner once again.

With night falling, Wilkinson gambled that he could outwit the Yankee in the dark. He ordered the pouring on of the soft, Carolina coal and especially the coal dust. This produced a vast cloud of black smoke as the *Lee*'s crew watched carefully for the point at which the *Iroquois* was at last indistinguishable. When the Yankee was swallowed by the darkness and smoke, Wilkinson closed his dampers, cutting off the smoke, came hard over and shot away at right angles to his course. And it worked. The *Iroquois* shot pass, firing its cannon into the darkness ahead.

It was one of Wilkinson's numerous close calls, but his luck, skill, and experience held him in good stead with the runner *Robert E. Lee*. While under his command, the *Lee* made 21 successful trips.

Wilkinson took the *Lee* out for the last time during the evening of 9 October 1863. Passing through the blockader's cordon off Wilmington, he set course for Halifax, Nova Scotia, on one of the most interesting clandestine missions ever conceived

by the Confederacy. Unfortunately, his plan was leaked, compromising his efforts, so he returned to Wilmington after aborting the mission.

Meanwhile, the *Robert E. Lee* was assigned a new captain who, on his first run, got into an argument with his pilot. In the heat of this exchange, an alert Federal blockader swooped down and drafted the *Lee* into the Federal Navy.

Afterwards Wilkinson spent some time on shore duty and was involved in planning another sub-rosa scheme to free Confederate POWs, but he soon pulled a new assignment. This one involved taking the blockade-runner *Edith*, mounting a battery on her and employing her as a commerce raider ... rechristened the *CSS Chickamauga*. The raider met with some success, taking half a dozen Yankees in Northern coastal traffic. But her coal bunkers were too small, and it was not the big time Wilkinson wanted, targeting the transatlantic freighters that would hurt the large, Northern shipping companies.

Also, Wilkinson was not happy with the *Chickamauga* herself ... overall, she was not built for the long endurance of commerce raiding ... so after his cruise up the Yankee coast, he set course for Bermuda to coal. Once in St. George, he ran into trouble with the British authorities, after which some 65 crewmembers deserted. Not a good omen. Wilkinson left Bermuda and ran the blockade back into Wilmington.

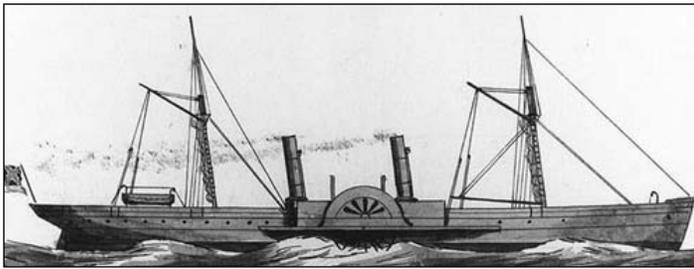
**“The importance of closing Wilmington is paramount to all other questions, more important, practically, than the capture of Richmond.”** —Gideon Welles, US Secretary of the Navy

Summoned to Richmond, Wilkinson discovered that the Secretary of the Navy had a compromise in mind. There was a new command waiting for him in Wilmington. She was the *CSS Tallahassee*, formerly the all-metal blockade-runner *Atalanta*, purchased in England in July 1864 and converted to a cruiser. One of the Confederacy's legendary swashbucklers, John Taylor Wood, had taken the raider out of Wilmington for a 20-day raid on 7 August 1864 and bagged 33 Union vessels along the Yankee coast.

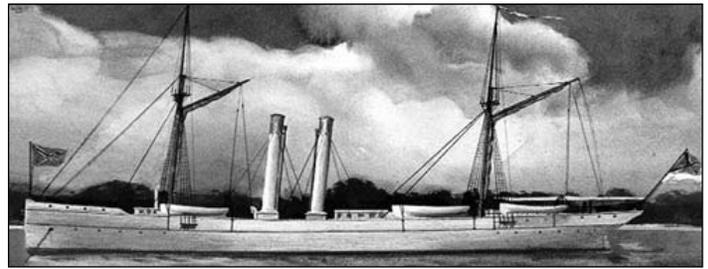
With panic spreading in the North and chased by a dozen Federal warships, Wood took a respite in Halifax before sneaking back out without detection two days later on 20 August 1864. Unable to fully coal, Wood returned safely to Wilmington on 26 August 1864.

After repairs, coaling and a change of names and captains, the raider ... now the *CSS Olustee* ... departed Wilmington on 26 October 1864 under the command of William H. Ward, CSN, Wood's former executive officer. Ward took her to the Cape of Delaware where they took 6 additional Yankees before heading back to Wilmington to coal. On the way, she tangled with five Union warships, sustained some damage, but escaped back into her home port around 6 November 1864 after a successful 8-day mission.

It was at this point that John Wilkinson got his assignment from Richmond to the *CSS Olustee*, which he promptly rebooted as the *CSS Chameleon*. He had a special mission for which he did not need the ship's battery, so he had her guns removed. He was happy with her speed ... 15 knots ... and no doubt satisfied to be back running the blockade with cargo. And that cargo was special. He was to fill the *Chameleon* with food for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and run it back into Wilmington, which still



The CSS Robert E. Lee



The CSS Chickamauga

had good rail communication with Richmond.

During Wilkinson's stay in Wilmington, John Newland Maffitt was also back in town and back in the blockade-running business. On the 5th of the month, Maffitt, in command of his new runner, the *CSS Owl*, headed out for Bermuda on a special mission of his own. He was specifically detailed to pick up the surviving crewmembers of the *CSS Florida* and bring them home.

Sometime around 15 December 1864, Maffitt returned and immediately began preparations to make another run. Wilkinson was completing his modifications to the *Chameleon* at the same time and preparing to depart. Maffitt loaded a cargo of cotton and left for Bermuda on 21 December, about 3 days before Wilkinson put to sea also headed for St. George.

Wilkinson took the *Chameleon* out sometime around Christmas Eve, 1864. Depending on the account, it was either during the Yankees' preoccupation with their first attempt to take Fort Fisher or shortly after their effort failed. Either way, he made his way through the blockaders and headed for Bermuda.

Maffitt was already in St. George ... having arrived on the 27th ... when Wilkinson steamed into port. But the British Governor of Bermuda was none too eager to allow cargo to be loaded aboard the *Chameleon* since Wilkinson previously port-called in a raider and there was some question as to the identity of his current ship. The Governor relented ... some sources say with John Maffitt interceding ... when he learned that only food was to be purchased.

By most accounts, Maffitt left Bermuda before Wilkinson and arrived off Wilmington during the night of 16 January 1865. Slipping through the blockaders, he entered the river through the Old Inlet and steamed up to Smithville. It was there he learned that Fort Fisher had fallen and that Wilmington was closed. He immediately weighed anchor, slipped back through the blockaders and set his course for St. George. Back in Bermuda, he warned a number of blockade-runners, thus preventing their capture or worse. Unfortunately, Wilkinson had already left.

The *Chameleon* apparently passed the *Owl* in transit and arrived off Wilmington later in January. Their first night off the bar proved confusing because on signal from the runner, no range lights were lit. Wilkinson stood back out to sea and made another attempt the following night. On his second try, the range lights were lit, but his signalman warned that the man he was communicating with on shore was not a Confederate. That was all Wilkinson needed and he immediately set course back out to Bermuda. Although he did not know it at the time, it was a close call and at first light the *Chameleon* was being chased by several Federal cruisers. Wilkinson headed back to St. George.

Wilkinson and Maffitt met back in Bermuda and with Wilmington closed, decided, we surmise, to move to Nassau.

There, on 30 January 1865, the runner *Chicora* arrived with a cargo from Charleston. It was decided among the captains of five blockade-runners ... *Owl*, *Carolina*, *Chicora*, *Chameleon* and *Dream* ... to make the run to Charleston. They tag-teamed into the "holy city", but the Federal blockaders were too thick and in the end, only the *Chicora* made it through. But, finding Charleston already evacuated, she immediately put to sea again. There are indications that the runners then proceeded to Nassau where they learned from the *Chicora* that Charleston had also fallen.

By late March, they had received no communications from Richmond and while the records of their activities are not definitive, it appears that they were aware the Confederacy was in its death throes. It was at this point, we speculate, that the Wilkinson and Maffitt decided not to surrender. In consultation with the Confederacy's agent in Nassau, Louis Heyliger, it was decided to proceed to Europe and there to turn over the ships to the resident agents.

**"Only aim to do your duty, and mankind will give you credit where you fail."**

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

Wilkinson unloaded his cargo, took on provisions and coal and discharged those of his crew who wanted to return to the South. The *Chameleon* departed Nassau in ballast on 22 March 1865 and transited through Bermuda on the 26th. St. George harbor was empty by then and after hurriedly coaling, Wilkinson set out that same day for Liverpool.

We know that Wilkinson arrived in Liverpool on 9 April 1865, the same Palm Sunday when Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia. There he turned over the *CSS Chameleon*, its stores, and what funds he had to the Confederate authorities.

In Nassau, with Wilkinson preparing to depart for Europe, Maffitt decided to make one last attempt to enter the Confederacy, and to this end, he sailed to Havana. He subsequently experienced a very difficult run into Galveston toward the end of April, and there he heard of Lee's surrender. He delivered his cargo, provisioned and took on coal for his run back to Havana. A few days later, he ran the blockade for the last time and set the *Owl* on a course for Cuba. He arrived in Havana on 9 May 1865, provisioned for Liverpool and arrived there on 14 July 1865. Once back in Liverpool, Maffitt turned the *CSS Owl* over to the resident Confederate authorities.

John Wilkinson did not tarry long in Liverpool. Hearing that his old friend, John Taylor Wood, was settling in Halifax, Wilkinson took passage to Nova Scotia and there he became a partner in Wood and Company, a merchant commissioning house. It is said a Confederate flag was flown over the establishment.

Wilkinson spent a number of years in Nova Scotia, becoming

somewhat of a prosperous businessman, but he was tormented with melancholy and a few years later, he finally returned home to Virginia. He settled at "Woodside," his family home in Amelia County, but later moved to Annapolis, Maryland, where he founded a successful school to prepare candidates for the Naval Academy. In 1877, he published his war memoir, *The Narrative of a Blockade Runner*. John Wilkinson never married and died quietly at his home in Annapolis in 1891 at the age of 70.

John Maffitt stayed in Liverpool and, taking advantage of his one marketable skill, took the British Board of Trade examination for his Certificate of Competence. Having passed, he was hired to command the British merchant steamer, *Widgeon*, and he sailed a regular schedule between Liverpool and Rio de Janeiro for the following two years.

Maffitt returned to the United States in 1867 and settled near Wilmington. There, like Wilkinson, he began writing, but not a war memoir. In 1871, he published his autobiographical novel, *Nautilus, or Cruising Under Canvas*. He later penned a manuscript about the slave trade in the Caribbean, but it was never published. He finally began work on the almost-obligatory war memoir at the behest of his third wife, Emma Hamblin Martin,

but death caught up with him in 1886 at the age of 67 and he never completed it. It was left to Emma Maffitt to complete the work and it was published under her name in 1906 as *The Life and Services of John Newland Maffitt*.

In the exciting, colorful, but often-exaggerated lore of the great blockade runners, the milestone of success seems to be acquired wealth ... ala "Rhett Butler" in *Gone with the Wind*. There was a great deal of that, no doubt, but this profit motive often clashed with the primary and desperate needs of the Confederacy. At our Sesquicentennial, it is easy to miss the impact blockade-running had on the value of the Confederate currency and on general inflation. We can ignore the fact that rampant greed forced the Confederate Government to pass legislation restricting basically what could be imported by the runners and in what amounts. Still, in the end, it is much easier to point to men like Captains John Wilkinson and John Newland Maffitt who put their duty first, worked for their meager government wages and ended the war financially destitute, but with their honor unquestionably intact.

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Archives and Museum of Oak Ridge Military Academy in Oak Ridge, North Carolina.



# Civil War Horses

By Richard M. Ripley

Throughout the Civil War horses were an essential component of the fighting forces. Horses were used to transport cavalry, supplies, and artillery weapons, and were the primary means of transportation throughout the war. Over an estimated 1.5 million horses and mules perished during the Civil War. The many breeds of horses during the war included Thoroughbreds, Saddlebreds, Morgans (pictured), Quarter-horses, Clydesdales, and Belgian drafts just to name a few. Morgan horses were known to have been used in both the Union and Confederate armies. Due to the excellent quality of the Morgan horse and their physical attributes they were in high demand. They were hearty and the thick winter coats enabled them to survive without shelter during bad weather. They could survive on scant forage, and the Morgan was highly trainable and willing to please..

On the Union side, horses were purchased by the government and issued to individual troopers. Horses were generally purchased for the military by Government Agents sent to procure mounts from private citizens. In most cases the Union Army

recruits were not familiar with horses and had to be trained to ride. It was different in the Confederate Army. The individual cavalry trooper owned his own horse. He grew up riding horses and was thoroughly familiar with them. When a Confederate trooper enlisted he brought his own horse and was paid by the Confederate government 40 cents a day for its use. If he lost his horse he was allowed 30 days leave to go home and obtain a replacement. If he could not find a replacement horse, he had the option of joining the infantry or artillery.

During the war years the concept of breeding horses for the U.S. Cavalry began to develop. This necessity proved to be invaluable. Horse breeding took on specific traits modeled from the European ideas and experiences. of the war. As the Civil War ended and westward migration ignited the Plains Indian wars, both would have a great effect on the U.S. breeding program. It is interesting to note that the breeding program and remount program of the U.S. Army existed until the beginning of World War II when horse cavalry was eliminated.

# Bill Mauldin

## Investigative cartoonist

By William Northrop

Time awaits no man, the old saw holds and with our Second World War veterans dying off at such an alarming rate, it behooves us to remember our “greatest generation” with the admiration and grateful appreciation they deserve. They gave us our freedom and safety by vanquishing two of the most evil plagues ever to threaten mankind. What they did humbles our own undertakings.

And when those veterans—old men now—massage their bad memories from that war, all will admit there is a bright spot, one that engenders that secret, knowing smile. Nothing before or since has struck their funny bone more than the irreverent insights of the fabled cartoon characters, “Willie and Joe,” in the Army newspapers.

Bill Mauldin, the creator of these two world-renowned GI’s, was trained as a grunt rifleman in 1940, but soon became an Army cartoonist assigned to the *45th Division News* at the age of



Mauldin’s favorite.

Back in the day, prior to and during the war, the 45th “Thunderbird” Infantry Division was a National Guard outfit made up of units from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma. It was headquartered in Oklahoma City and post-war would become the legendary, all-Sooner outfit.

Bill Mauldin was born in New Mexico in 1921, moved to Arizona and by his early teens had decided he wanted to become a cartoonist. He had even managed to attend the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago, thanks to his grandmother who provided the tuition. We speculate that there was a dearth of cartoonist jobs back home in Arizona, so he joined the Arizona Guard in September 1940. Although it is not clear, Mauldin may have been recruited as the 45th Division was federalized that same month for one year of training in the run-up to the war. During this training period, the Division participated in the massive war game

known as the Louisiana Maneuvers and in September 1941, with the political atmosphere in flux, the 45th was retained in Federal service.

While Mauldin was training as an infantry rifleman, he was drawing cartoons depicting his activities. In October 1940, merely a month after joining the unit, his talent was discovered, and he was assigned to the 45th Division newspaper. It was the beginning of a long and illustrious career.

It is important to understand the military environment in which Mauldin found himself. The 45th Division, in which he would serve most of the war, was a National Guard outfit composed of citizen-soldiers, not professional military men. Indeed, the entire American Army of World War II was a citizen force—men who knew how to soldier, did it well, but were civilians at heart. To fight the war, General George C. Marshall had to create a massive, 8-million-man army practically from scratch. It was completely dependent on people-level leadership—line officers and sergeants—and when viewed in its totality, it offered young Mauldin a fertile field in which to work.



“I need a couple of guys who don’t owe me no money for a little routine patrol.”

Yet he was much more. He was a real journalist, far apart from the self-aggrandizing, entertainment personalities of today who call themselves, “reporters.” Mauldin was out with the grunts every day, in the mud and the blood; he did not spend his time at the Hilton downtown, doing stand-ups about himself and his agenda. His cartoons



were about the troops and the war. And, that is why he is still so beloved by his countrymen.

The 45th Thunderbirds, part of George Patton's 7th Army, went ashore at Scoglitti, Sicily, in the early morning hours of 10 July 1943 in *Operation Huskie*. Mauldin was with his rifle company and, being their first time under fire, he began sketching when he could. On the day following the invasion, he witnessed perhaps the worst "friendly fire" incident of the war ... the mistaken shoot-down of elements of the 504th PIR of the 82nd



By the way, what were those changes you wuz gonna make when you took over last month, Sir?

Airborne Division. That was the "real war." By late July, the division was slugging it out with the Herman Goering Division and was tapped by Patton to make his famous end-run to Messina.

At that point in time, Mauldin was still assigned to the 45th newspaper, but as the war progressed, his cartoons began seeping into the Army's principle newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*. After wrapping up the conquest

of Sicily, the division prepared to invade Italy proper, but on 3 September 1943, the Italian Government surrendered to the Allies. The German Army moved quickly to occupy Italy and resist the expected Allied invasion.

On 10 September 1943, the 45th Division landed at Salerno, south of Naples in *Operation Avalanche*. That month, Mauldin was wounded in action near Monte Cassino and was awarded the Purple Heart. Followed then a four-month slugging match and on 9 January 1944, the 45th was relieved in front of the German's Gustav Line. The previous November *Stars and Stripes* began publishing Mauldin's cartoons along with their appearance in the 45th Division newspaper. But in February Mauldin was detached from the 45th and assigned full time to the staff of *Stars and Stripes*. A month later, General Mark Clark, commander of the 5th Army in Italy, had Mauldin issued a jeep to facilitate his coverage of the front. Still, the youngster stuck pretty close to his "parent" division.

At this point in the war, Mauldin was producing six cartoons per week, which expressed the misery, suffering and humor of the "dog face" GIs. Said Mauldin, "I drew pictures for and about the soldiers because I knew what their life was like and understood their gripes. I wanted to make something out of the humorous situations which come up even when you don't think life could be any more miserable."

He got a massive career boost when the most popular combat journalist in the war, Ernie Pyle, wrote an article about him and his work. Shortly thereafter, he was picked up by United Feature Syndicate and his cartoons began appearing in newspapers all over the United States.

As young Mauldin's career was on the rise, the Italian Campaign was also proceeding, but more slowly. On 22 January 1944, Mark Clark made a classic end-run around the Gustav Line and landed on the western coast of Italy at Anzio in the German rear. The operation was coded "Shingle" and it was one hell of a fight. Clark finally took Rome on 4 June 1944 ending the campaign. During the fighting, the 45th Thunderbirds was the first American unit to enter the Vatican. It had also witnessed the eruption of Mount Vesuvius that March and because of its stubborn resistance to the German attacks, earned the sobriquet the "Rock of Anzio."

The 45th Division was pulled out of the line and sent to the rear near Naples on 16 June 1944. Rest and replacements was the first order of business, after which training began for their next and last invasion. This time they would land in France.

"Operation Dragoon" was scheduled to put an allied army, including some 40,000 Free French troops, into Southern France in August 1944. The 45th Division, wary but full of confidence, was determined that this new invasion would be "no more Anzios."

On 15 August 1944, the 45th Division went ashore in the "Delta" section of the invasion beaches near St. Maxime. Their casualties were light, mainly because the Germans were rushing every available man to Northern France, so the Allied push into France was rapid. Bill Mauldin was with them and so began the "European" portion of his service.



Joe, yestiddy ya saved my life an' I swore I'd pay ya back. Here's my last pair of dry socks.

The 7th Army drove rapidly north and was able to link up with Patton's Third Army driving east from Normandy on 12 September 1944.

While the GIs loved Mauldin's "cartoons with a conscience," several regular Army officers were not amused. Prime among them was George Patton, who wrote a letter to *Stars and Stripes* in early 1945 threatening to ban the newspaper from his Third Army if it did not stop publishing Mauldin's "scurrilous attempts to undermine military discipline."

Patton was not only a fine combat leader, he was a stickler for spit and polish. Mauldin's "Willie and Joe" were not exactly the paragons of military neatness. Further, Mauldin had an enlisted man's inherent distain for officers, especially incompetent ones, and had on occasion singled out Patton for ridicule, especially over the General's notorious "slapping incident" in Sicily.

Word soon got out and the GIs held their breath. But, Mauldin had another fan, who happened to be Patton's boss, General Eisenhower. A meeting was arranged in March 1945 where the lowly Sergeant and the General Commanding Third Army met, under orders, to iron out their differences. Peace prevailed and Mauldin later quipped to *Time* magazine, "I came out with my

hide on.” *Stars and Stripes* breathed a sigh of relief.

As the 45th Division pushed into Germany, they liberated the Concentration Camp at Dachau near Munich. There they found boxcars full of corpses and 32,000 surviving prisoners. According to some accounts, a massacre of the captured German guards took place. This of course, was controversial and while an investigation suggested the court martial of several officers, General Patton dismissed the whole incident. Thus the war ended for the Thunderbirds.

The year 1945 was a signal year for the Allies and for Mauldin. The war in Europe was winding down and the Germans finally surrendered that May. Bill Mauldin published his first book, *Up Front*, and won the Pulitzer Prize for his cartoons, becoming the youngest recipient ever. Even the Army awarded him the Legion of Merit for his work. The 23-year-old was by then the best-known cartoonist in America and his GI character, Joe, even made the cover of *Time*.

When Mauldin came home from the war, his cartoons had been released by *Stars and Stripes* and were syndicated in over 200 newspapers. His book, *Up Front*, had been picked up by the Book-of-the-Month Club and was the number one bestseller for a little over 18 months, selling over 3 million copies in hardcover. He complained about having to pay taxes on his book royalties while General Eisenhower, by a special act of Congress, did not have to pay on his. Years later, he would tell Studs Terkel he still felt like a “war profiteer.”

Mauldin attempted to go into political cartooning after the war, but his politics, often described as “civil libertarian,” were not well-received. He then attempted to resurrect Willie and Joe in civilian life, but that also did not work. But in 1947, he hit with his second book, *Back Home*.

At that point, Mauldin abandoned cartooning for a while. He tried film acting, freelance writing and illustrating articles and books. None of these really caught his interest, so he decided to try politics. In 1956, he ran unsuccessfully for Congress as a Democrat in New York’s 28th Congressional District.

In 1958, he went with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and returned to cartooning for its editorial page. A year later, he won his second Pulitzer Prize for his depiction of Boris Pasternak’s Nobel Prize. Then in 1962, he moved to the *Chicago Sun-Times* and a year later produced one of his most famous editorial cartoons on the death of President Kennedy. Most believe he should have won his third Pulitzer for it. He continued producing editorial cartoons during the 1960s and would occasionally branch out into other venues. In 1969 for example, he illustrated a booklet on traffic safety for the National Safety Council.

Mauldin received many honors over the years, but his fame never went to his head. In fact, he was known for his haughtiness. During this period of his life, he only withdrew Willie and Joe on four occasions. They again stood tall on the deaths of Generals George C. Marshall and Omar Bradley. He used them to further illustrate a *Life* magazine article on the “New Army” and in memoriam to his fellow cartoonist, Milton Caniff. Mauldin remained at the *Sun-Times* until his retirement in 1991.

Mauldin’s post-war life was full, but never seem to reach the apogee of his experiences in the war. He had three marriages, which produced eight children. And then there was the recognition, the awards, and his continual work as a cartoonist. He was also surrounded by friends and colleagues from the war and was portrayed at anniversaries and reunions. He published more books—twelve in all. But he never lost the common touch, and that was his charm and success.

Every year on Veterans’ Day, Charles “Sparky” Schulz, the creator of *Peanuts*, drew a cartoon memorializing Bill Mauldin. Schulz then sent the original to him. The reason: Schulz was a combat infantryman in Europe during the war.

Mauldin’s last years were no picnic. His daughter, Kaja, died of cancer in 2001—no doubt a shock—and he began to develop Alzheimer’s. This probably contributed to the incident where, taking a bath, he was terribly scalded. These injuries produced runaway infections to the point where he could no longer take care of himself. He was consequently moved to the

Park Superior Nursing Home in Newport Beach, California, in mid-2001 where, by all accounts, his health and his spirit flagged.

But word soon began circulating in the veterans’ community that Mauldin was in a nursing home, and, during the summer of 2002, a mass of visitors began showing up. These were old veterans who wanted him to know that they were there for him, just as he had once been there for them. A journalist, Gordon Dillow of the *Orange County Register*, got wind of the situation and put the word out in an article about Mauldin, which precipitated a flood of mail and more visitors. This onslaught of appreciation meant a great deal to Mauldin and, by all accounts, boosted his spirit. Initially, he enjoyed periods of lucidity, but as his disease progressed, he developed secondary infections and succumbed to respiratory failure on 22 January 2003 at the age of 81.

Bill Mauldin was appropriately laid to rest in Arlington on a cold, drizzly day that January. His son, David, added a poignant observation when he said, “It would make sense for him to die in the middle of winter, in terrible weather with lots of mud.”

There is a final postscript to Bill Mauldin’s story. In March of 2010, the United States Postal Service issued a first class postage stamp commemorating the veteran cartoonist who meant so much to our nation in general and our “greatest generation” in particular.



Mauldin in 1945.  
“...he couldn’t look noble even if he tried.”



Bill’s place in Arlington.

# The Battle of Yellow Tavern and the Death of J.E.B. Stuart

By Richard M. Ripley



On 9 May 1864, 10,000 horsemen slipped out of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House and rode south towards Richmond looking for a fight. The column, including six batteries of horse artillery, stretched for 13 miles. The Cavalry Corps's commander, Major General Philip Sheridan, had asserted that he could whip Confederate General J.E.B. Stewart if given the chance. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant decided to let him try.

Stuart at the time was at Spotsylvania commanding Anderson's Infantry Corps and his Cavalry. Within a few hours, he detected Sheridan's movement and detached General Fitzhugh Lee's Division to deal with Sheridan. He detached the 1st North Carolina Cavalry Brigade to harass Sheridan's rear. Stuart rode South with Generals Lomax and Wickham's brigades to get ahead of the Northerners. This decision further split his fighting strength. Stuart's first reaction was a fateful miscalculation that could have been the product of misjudging the enemy's intentions. Apparently expecting only a typically timid Union cavalry raid and not wanting to deprive Gen Lee all the of the services of the Cavalry Corps, Stuart committed only three of his six brigades, roughly 4,500 horsemen, to the task of opposing Sheridan. Thus his force was half of the fighting strength of the Union cavalry. Stuart's cavalry won the race to the northern outskirts of Richmond traveling night and day on exhausted horses. The jaded troopers reached the strategic crossroads at Yellow Tavern (Yellow Tavern was an abandoned stagecoach building on Telegraph Road) around 10 a.m. on 11 May and assumed a blocking position. Stuart formed his line into two wings. His right, under Wickham, took positions west of the Telegraph Road, facing south. The left, under Lomax, formed at right angles to Wickham's brigade along the Telegraph Road, facing west. The van of Sheridan's column reached Yellow Tavern within an hour of the Confederate arrival. Sheridan's lead division under Gen. Wesley Merritt immediately attacked Stewart's left which paralleled the Telegraph Road. Both sides took heavy casualties, particularly the troopers on the union left who engaged Lomax's brigade in front, and caught a terrible flank fire from Wickham's brigade on the south. When Federal troopers engaged around the southern flank, Lomax relinquished his position along the Telegraph Road and fell back on Wickham's line. Stuart put Lomax's men back into position, directing them to extend Wickham's left on a straight-line facing south. The two southern brigades formed on either side of the Telegraph Road by 2 p.m.

A two-hour lull fell over the fields around Yellow Tavern. In the interim, Philip Sheridan repelled a sharp assault on his rear by Gen. James B Gordon's Confederate cavalry. Meanwhile, Sheridan brought up the remainder of his force and reconnoitered Stewart's new line. The Southerners availed themselves of the quiet to catch some much needed rest.

General George A. Custer deployed his Michigan Cavalry Brigade, the Wolverines, on Sheridan's right. Custer spied several Confederate cannons placed in Stewart's line and planned to capture them by flanking their position. He dismounted half of his brigade in preparation for an attack while Sheridan readied

the rest of his command to assist. A bugle sounded the charge and the dismounted soldiers closed in on the Confederate front. At the same time Custer's mounted troopers moved in a wide sweep to the right. The Southerners immediately divined Custer's intention and turned their guns on the Federal horsemen. Custer's men thundered towards the resounding guns, crossing five different fences before they encountered a bridge over a narrow span and up the hill, while a Confederate poured severe fire on them from the heights above the creek.

The Federal horsemen punched through Lomax's brigade and pushed the brigade's left flank backwards. General Stuart, riding among his men tried to rally them. Some of Custer's men streamed past Stuart, but a timely counterattack by a portion of the 1st Virginia Cavalry stopped their progress and drove them back. As the Federals withdrew, Sergeant John A. Huff of the 5th Michigan Cavalry hurriedly fired his pistol into a group of mounted Confederates by the Telegraph Road. J.E.B. Stewart clutched his side, his head dipped, and the general's plumed hat fell into the dust. He calmly whispered "I'm shot." A trooper supported Stuart while another lead his horse to the rear.

General Fitzhugh Lee assumed command upon Stewart's wounding. He tried to maintain his lines under increasing Federal pressure, but parts of his division crumbled and fled the field. Stuart chided some of those who raced past his ambulance. "Go back, go back," he cried, "Do your duty as I've done mine." Fitzhugh Lee simply lacked the strength to stop Sheridan. His two Confederate brigades held briefly against two Union divisions and then retreated across the north fork of the Chickahominy River. Stuart was taken by ambulance to Richmond.

Sheridan had wrestled the Yellow Tavern battlefield from the Confederates and mortally wounded their leader. He had instilled a sense of victory among his troopers and dispelled some of the doubts about his abilities. J.E.B. Stewart had been badly outnumbered and outgunned and the result was predictable. The Confederates, however, held their positions for a considerable time under lengthening odds. Their efforts brought the Richmond defenders an opportunity to man the fortifications and discourage any Union attacks on the Capital. However, an attack on Richmond was never Sheridan's intent. He felt he could take it but could not hold it. On 12 May Sheridan maneuvered his forces around Richmond and headed for Haxall's Landing on the James River. After crossing the river, he joined up with Butler, where his troopers spent four days resting and being resupplied.

On 12 May, J.E.B. Stewart died of his wounds at the home of his brother-in-law, Dr. Charles Brewer. Crowds gathered outside the house on Grace Street, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis visited briefly before Stewart slipped into delirium and death. He was 31 years of age. Stuart was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.

# 12 May 2012

## North Carolina Military Historical Society

### ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The annual symposium and general membership meeting of the North Carolina Military Historical Society is scheduled for Saturday, 12 May 2012, in Raleigh in the Long Leaf Pine Room of the North Carolina Museum of History. The symposium is free of charge to any who wish to attend, and no prior registration is required unless you wish to reserve a \$5.00 sub-sandwich lunch. Meals will be available for only those who reserve one no later than Monday, 7 May by emailing the Society at [ncmilhist\\_soc@yahoo.com](mailto:ncmilhist_soc@yahoo.com), or by calling the Society President at 910-897-7968, and will be payable at the door.

The theme of this year's symposium is "North Carolina and the Civil War." The meeting will last from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and feature four outstanding speakers making presentations on various aspects of our state's participation in that seminal conflict. There is plenty of free parking adjacent to the museum.

One of North Carolina's earliest brushes with the war came during "The Burnside Expedition" which will be explored in a presentation by Jeff Bockert, an Assistant Curator of Education and Civil War Specialist with the N. C. Division of Historic Sites. Kenrick Simpson, Military Collection Archivist for the State Archives of North Carolina, will discuss "Major General William Dorsey Pender," one of the Tar Heel State's best senior officers and one of General Lee's most dependable. Chris Meekins, Corresponding Archivist with the State Archives of North Carolina, will discuss Union sentiment and support in eastern North Carolina, an interesting and important topic all too often under-addressed by Civil War scholars. Our fourth speaker of the day will be Josh Howard, Research Historian with the North Carolina Office of History, who will discuss his ground-breaking study into the losses suffered by the State of North Carolina during the war. His exhaustive, multi-year research project has uncovered information that has sparked passionate discussion on the pivotal role of North Carolina in the war.

Civil War living historians will be on hand displaying the uniforms, weapons and accoutrements of the period, and available to

discuss the life of the common soldier and tactics of the day. A Civil War-related DVD will be shown during the registration period and during the lunch break for those wishing to view it.

Several potential lunch-time or post-symposium activities are available. Attendees may wish to take a self-guided tour of the extensive Civil War section of the North Carolina Museum of History's new Chronology Exhibit and its permanent North Carolina military history gallery, "A Call to Arms" on the third floor. A few steps away is the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science, and a quick one-block walk will bring those interested in historical or genealogical research to the State Archives of North Carolina. Across the street from the Museum of History is the Capital Building. It was in its House Chamber that the historic vote was taken on 20 May 1861 which took North Carolina out of the Union.

Once again the Society will sponsor a raffle during the symposium with tickets drawn throughout the day for donated items. Funds generated from the sale of raffle tickets help defray the cost of the symposium, publication of the Society's semi-annual magazine, *Recall*, and support the Society's own North Carolina Military History Museum at Kure Beach, North Carolina. All donations are very much appreciated and may include books, magazines, prints, figures, uniforms, selected artifacts, and like items. If you have items you wish to donate, they may be hand-carried to the meeting or mailed to the North Carolina Military Historical Society, c/o Sion H. Harrington III, 503 South 11th Street, Erwin, North Carolina 28339-2715. Questions regarding items for donation may be directed to the Society via email at [ncmilhist\\_soc@yahoo.com](mailto:ncmilhist_soc@yahoo.com), or by calling (910) 897-7968.

A meeting of the Society's Board of Directors will immediately follow the close of the symposium.

The North Carolina Military Historical Society sincerely hopes you will make plans to attend. Mark your calendar and join us for a day of interesting speakers, fascinating topics, and good fellowship!



**KEN SIMPSON** is a native of Ahoskie and grew up in Tarboro. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees at East Carolina University. In 1975 he joined the Office of Archives and History. His services have ranged from editor to archivist. Ken has written a number of archival research guides. Since 2011 he has served as the Military Collection Archivist. Confederate Major General William Dorsey Pender has been one of Ken's favorite research topics. His wife also is an archivist.



A North Carolina native, **CHRIS MEEKINS** developed an interest in history from visiting places of interest around his hometown of Elizabeth City. His curiosity concerning the Civil War era grew out of class work in his undergraduate degree and continued in his graduate studies. He was drawn to the study of the Unionists and the Federal occupation of the coast of North Carolina. Chris had two Civil War soldiers for ancestors: one with the Edenton Bell Battery and the other with N.C. Union Volunteers.



**JEFF BOCKERT** currently serves as the Associate Curator of Education for the N.C. Division of Historic Sites based in Kinston and as Vice-Chairman of the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council. He has worked in the historic site and museum field for almost 20 years. In addition to his work at historic sites, he was a history instructor at Brunswick Community College and Wingate University. He is author of several works on presidential and military history. He received his degrees from UNC-Wilmington.



**JOSH HOWARD** is a Revolutionary War specialist and co-author, along with Dr. Lawrence Babits of ECU, of *Fortitude and Fortbearance: The North Carolina Line in the Revolutionary War and Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781*. The latter work was awarded the 2010 Distinguished Book Award by the U.S. Army Historical Foundation. He is currently a research historian at the North Carolina Office of Archives and History.

## North Carolina Military Historical Society

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### BOOK REVIEW

# The Sonarman's War

*A memoir of submarine chasing and mine sweeping in World War II*

By H. G. Jones

Book Review by Robert P. Boynton

I recently read this book by Dr. Jones, since I am interested in many aspects of the US Navy in World War II. I found this book a joy to read, his mixing of his personal diary with the current events of the time. It must have been difficult keeping up with all this information. He includes remembrances of his jobs and off time mixed in well with official reports of what was really happening in the War. After the War and being educated, including a PhD from Duke University, he served as a history professor, state archivist, Director of N.C. Archives, and Curator of the North Carolina Collection at UNC.

Dr. Jones served on two different ships during WW!! in both Theaters. His first was a 110 ft. wooden sub chaser seeing duty in North Africa and Italy. As the European naval situations were winding down, he was transferred to the Pacific to serve on a 221 ft. mine sweeper. He was an early trained sonarman working in some difficult and cramped situations. Though he is not really involved in any real glory, he and his shipmates were doing the jobs, often monotonous and mundane, that were needed to be done by the "little ships" of the US Navy.

I especially enjoyed his commentary of things done on his liberty or time off from the ship. He includes vivid remembrances of museums, shows, and historic sites, mixed in with brothels and drinking bouts. He lists many of the entertainers in the shows, and even the Bible verses that the Chaplain was preaching from that day. He has several friends made onboard, with which he shares these visits, and comments on why he avoids excursions with others.

He includes many maps and photos, some only available because he took them himself. Little ships do not warrant the press and publicity as the capital ships. He is able to name ships and numbers of those working in his ship's vicinity, due to his wonderful record-keeping.

I enjoyed reading this book, both from the literary perspective as well as the research one. There are plenty of sailor's names as well as place and ship names. The copy I read was borrowed from my local History Room, but many libraries should have this

available. A quick look at the internet shows it is available on line, both as print and electronic format.

[Note: Robert P. Boynton, a pharmacist from Kannapolis, NC, is a long-time living historian.]

## Free Publications Catalog

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources has as its theme "History Happens Here." For anyone interested in exploring North Carolina's rich history, the Historical Publications Section of the state Office of Archives and History offers a wide variety of affordable Tar Heel books. The section's free catalog, which offers more than 160 titles, is now available.

The Moravians of Piedmont North Carolina have left their indelible stamp on the history and culture of the state. Another new title, Volume 13, 1867-1876, of "Records of the Moravians in North Carolina," contains edited church diaries and minute books kept by Moravian ministers, which provide insight into their communities after the Civil War.

The original publication in 1964 of Joffre Lanning Coe's "The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont" represented a landmark in American archaeology. This classic work has recently been reprinted by the Office of Archives and History and is featured in the Publications Section's new catalog.

Among the Historical Publications Section's most popular titles are paperback books about legends from across the state, the "Tar Heels" nickname, highway historical markers, lighthouses, pirates, the Lost Colonists, and African Americans. In addition, the new catalog describes short histories of 13 North Carolina counties and 11 books about the state's participation in military engagements from colonial Indian wars to World War II. Separate sections describe six black history titles and 12 Civil War books.

To receive a free catalog with information on how to order, write: Historical Publications Section (N), Office of Archives and History, 4622 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4622; telephone (919) 733-7442; or e-mail [trudy\\_rayfield@ncmail.net](mailto:trudy_rayfield@ncmail.net). The Publications Section's books, many of which are now on sale at discounts of 50% or more, can also be ordered from the section's secure online store at <http://store.yahoo.com/nc-historical-publications/>.

## The North Carolina Military Historical Society

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## EDITOR'S TACK ROOM

By Richard M. Ripley

Thanks to two dedicated writers, we have an excellent *Recall*. We appreciate them and the time and effort they devote to their research and writing. Si Harrington, our NCMHS President, consistently comes through with a good story. William "Bill" Northrop's interesting historical topics reflect extensive work in military history research.



The North Carolina Military Historical Society (NCMHS) Annual Symposium meets on 12 May 2012 at the State Museum in Raleigh. All the details about the meeting and speakers are included in this *Recall's* page 22. Please come and

bring a friend. This is a good opportunity for history students.

In the brief article on Civil War Horses, page 17, I mentioned the importance of the Morgan horse. I can vouch for the wonderful attributes of the Morgan. I had many, never to be forgotten, years of riding and working with my Morgan horse "Rusty." Rusty died 26 December 2011. He was age 33 years and 8 months.

For those contributing articles, please email your manuscripts to me at [rripley@nc.rr.com](mailto:rripley@nc.rr.com). Send it as a Word document, single space, 12 point New Roman font. Please do not embed photos in the manuscript. Send photos as a separate attachment. Place a note in the manuscript where to locate the photo(s).

The NCMHS web site is [www.ncmhs.net](http://www.ncmhs.net). Note that past and current issues of *Recall* are available for you to download.

## Contribute Articles to Recall

Readers are invited to submit material to *Recall*. In choosing material for publication, the editor of *Recall* will give preference to articles of unusual significance and transcripts or abstracts of difficult-to-locate records.

Material submitted for publication will be reviewed by persons knowledgeable in the areas covered for validity, significance, and appropriateness. All material will be edited for clarity and conciseness. Manuscripts should be sent to the Editor, 4404 Leota Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27603. Tel. 919-772-7688. E-mail: [rripley@nc.rr.com](mailto:rripley@nc.rr.com).

## Photos, Interviews Sought To Document Tar Heel Military Experience

In 1998, the N.C. Division of Archives and History began Phase III of its effort to better document the state's 20th century military experience. Previous phases have focused on the period from 1900 through the end of the Korean War. Though still actively collecting and preserving items from this era, the Archives is seeking to honor North Carolina veterans who served North Carolina and the nation from 1954 through the present.

The Military History Collection Project also is engaged in an extensive oral history program. People around the state are encouraged to tape interviews with veterans of all time periods and services for deposit in the Military Collection of the State Archives. If you have items to share, please mail them to or contact: Ken Simpson, Coordinator, Military Collection Project, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2807; or call 919-807-7314.

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