



TO ARMS! TO ARMS!
REBELS INVADE PENNSYLVANIA

THE REBEL INVASION

Highly Important from the Army of the Potomac. A Supposed Heavy Battle Between Gens. Meade and Lee

Special Dispatch to NY Times

I am just back from the front, and report the occurrences of yesterday and today. The rebel force which made the raid on the B&O RR consisted of Stuart's whole force, with eight artillery pieces. They arrived at Westminster on Monday night, harassing the local citizenry and shooting two who attempted an escape. Gen. Gregg attacked Stuart and drove him from Westminster to Hanover, Pennsylvania-a distance of eighteen miles. During the afternoon Gens. Kilpatrick and Castar drove Stuart out of Hanover after a splendid fight, and they are still pursuing him, part of his force going towards Gettysburg and part to York. Gen. Kilpatrick reports the capture of six artillery pieces and over 400 rebel casualties.

From the best information we can obtain, the rebels appear to be concentrating their forces on a line running from Cashtown to Berlin. Longstreet and A.P. Hill are near Cashtown. They are ripping, stripping and stealing everything. Citizens report that they burned twenty-five houses in Shippensburg. In Gettysburg they took everthing that was left -most of the goods having been sent away in advance.

It looks at this hour as though the rebels were preparing to clear from the State with their plunder or else to concentrate and give us battle somewhere near Gettysburg.

ADDRESS TO THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

Headquarters Army of the Potomac June 30, 1863

The Commanding General requests that previous to the engagement soon to be expected with the enemy, corps, and all other commanding officers address their troops, explaining to them the immense issues involved in the struggle. The enemy is now on our soil. The whole country looks anxiously to this army to deliver it from the presence of the foe. Our failure to do so will leave us no such welcome as the swelling of millions of hearts with pride and joy at our success would give to every soldier of the army. The army has fought well heretofore. It is believed that it will fight more desperately and bravely than ever. Corps and other commanders are authorized to order instant death of any soldier who fails to do his duty at this hour. By command of Major-Gen. Meade.

ARTILLERY RESERVE AT ARLINGTON

General order Number 11 issued in 1868 by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, designated May 30th as National Decoration Day.

It was "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land". This celebration is now rededicated as simply, Memorial Day. There are many first celebrations of "Memorial Day" immortalized in our history throughout the United States beginning in the last year of the Civil War. Yet, the most widely accepted first national celebration of the holiday took place May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery, where both Confederate and Union soldiers were laid to rest.

This year marked the 140th anniversary of this sanctified occasion which was celebrated with a reenactment of the original dedication at the Old Amphitheatre. In attendance were, Scriblings Battery firing artillery salutes commanded by Colonel Larry Fisher of the Artillery Reserve and the 1st US Regulars. Musical accompaniment was provided by the USMC Brass Quintet.

The affair attracted a number of guests from young school children on field trips to the retired veteran. Each guest was presented with an awe inspiring site of men dressed to the nines standing at attention with reverence and distinction for those they were honoring that day. Marvelous salutes reverberating across the peaceful rolling hills of the cemetery were presented by the Artillery with vigor. As a symbol of those lost in battle, a lonely sole mourning her loss sat quietly by remembering a lost soul whom she simply stated through her black veil as, "My darling James".

The ceremony was brought to a close with the decorating of the Memorial to the Civil War Unknowns, originally dedicated in 1866. Several memorial wreaths were laid by the Patriotic Society Community, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Ladies of the Auxiliary and the Allied Orders. A final artillery barrage brought the ceremony to a close.

June 17th, 2008

As reported by Christopher and Kimberly Dippolito AR Staff



GENERAL SLAMS CCBF

USV General Tony Daniels lashed out at the Cedar Battlefield Foundation and its Director, Suzanne Chilson claiming them to be disingenuous and deceitful in their replacement of the USV, Artillery Reserve and himself last fall with the National Regiment. Daniels claims that even though his tenure as field commander was nearing an end, he was told by Chilson at the 2007 event that he had the job for 2008. In November he learned that the National Regiment would command the Federals in 2008 with Ted Brennan as commander. Daniels says his sources have told him that Brennan has never commanded more than a company and that the artillery commander more than one gun. Daniels said he was told by Chilson that applications for command were mailed out but his was forgotten and that only Ted Brennan applied. But according to the general not one Federal commander received an application. Daniels offered his services but was turned down. Daniels accuses the CCBF in giving into campaigners at the insistence of the late Dan Snyder, a Foundation member, and points out that it was the USV and Dana Heim that made Cedar Creek a premier event. Daniels went on to say that he was disappointed and that all who have supported Cedar Creek with their time and money should be concerned with who they will be serving under this Fall. General Daniels doesn't see a future for himself at Cedar Creek and doesn't plan to return.

In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the said Commonwealth.

A PROCLAMATION.

The enemy is advancing in force into Pennsylvania. He has a strong column within 23 miles of Harrisburg, and other columns are moving by Fulton and Adams Counties, and it can no longer be doubted that a formidable invasion of our State is in actual progress. The calls already made for volunteer militia in the exigency have not been met as fully as the crisis requires.

I, therefore, now issue this my proclamation, calling for 60,000 men to come promptly forward to defend the State. They will be mustered into the service of the State for the period of ninety days, but will be required to serve only so much of the period of muster as the safety of our people and honor of our State may require.

They will rendezvous at points to be designated in the general orders to be issued this day by the adjutant-general of Pennsylvania, which orders will also set forth the details of the arrangements for organization, clothing, subsistence, equipments, and supplies. I will not insult you by inflammatory appeals. Heed not the counsels of evil-disposed persons, if such there be in your midst. Show yourselves what you are a free, loyal, spirited, brave, vigorous race. Do not undergo the disgrace of leaving your defense mainly to the citizens of other States. In defending the soil of Pennsylvania we are contributing to the support of our National Government, and indicating our fidelity to the National cause.

Pennsylvania has always heretofore responded promptly to all the calls made by the Federal Government, and I appeal to you now not to be unmindful that the foe that strikes at our State strikes through our desolation at the life of the Republic, and our people are plundered and driven from their homes solely because of their loyalty and fidelity to our free institutions.

People of Pennsylvania! I owe to you all my faculties, my labors, my life. You owe to your country your prompt and zealous services and efforts. The time has now come when we must all stand or fall together in defense of our duty that posterity shall not blush for us. Come heartily and cheerfully to the rescue of our noble Commonwealth. Maintain now your honor and freedom.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, at Harrisburg, this twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Commonwealth the eighty-seventh.

A. G. CURTIN. By the GOVERNOR: ELI SLIFER, Secretary of the Commonwealth



RAIN FAILS TO DAMPEN SPIRITS AT 145TH CHANCELLORSVILLE

Isle of Wight, VA.

The rain began early on Friday morning giving the grounds a good soak and causing a great deal of havoc with the Union Camp. Eventually the whole Union camp was transported across the field to Confederate camp causing some cramped quarters. By the time I arrived the new site was already flooded and under water. Many reenactors, including ourselves opted to find a hotel to escape the rivers running through the camps and into the tents.

The event coordinators provided free straw to us to soak up what flooded areas we could. The rain didn't hamper our spirits though and camp life went on with great spirit. A hearty fire gave us breakfast and dinner, but another pouring of rain during the battle flooded out the last dry fire pit. There was no feeding the hungry troops dinner.

The solders were determined to go to battle in the afternoon despite the rain and mud. Four Union guns faced off against six Confederate guns, stacking the odds against the brave boys in blue almost 20 to 1. The battle commenced with a Cavalry charge and countercharge, all the while protecting the Union guns from the Confederate attack. The infantry lined up in the breast works to our right waiting to attack. In the distance you could see the Confederate Artillery, but they continued to overshoot their mark. Then out of the tree line came the Rebs. The command came, "Shell 300 yards"! Wave after wave emerged against our defenses and none fell. Would you fall in a field of mud and puddles? Soon the infantry charged out of our breastworks to counter attack, but they were out numbered and pushed back by the Confederate barrage.

As the lines broke the Artillery was left unprotected and we were flanked. Few solders were able to escape and most were taken prisoner. The battle was lost to the Confederate Army.

As the day went on the rain continued and many reenactors pulled out. Sunday morning revealed and even worse condition of the fields and the event was called off. With a great deal of help by our fellow reenactors we were able to leave, but not before we waded ankle deep in mud. The event has strong potential and the organizers were very concerned with the welfare and comfort of the reenactors. Consideration was given to the ladies and several handicap portales were brought in along with wash bins for better sanitation. Straw bails were made available for a small fee until the rain wouldn't quit and then were dropped at the campsites for free. Food vendors were on site with the Sutlers. Shuttles ran back and forth for the reenactors and spectators to avoid the mud and rain. In the end the weather did us all in and many reenactors were disappointed with the lack of a "rain plan".

Christopher Dippolito AR Staff

GETTYSBURG WHERE EAST MEETS WEST AND FRIENDS FROM DISTANT SHORES

Always at these mega anniversary events folks come in from the various points of the compass to join with fellow reenactors in commemorating and preserving America's Civil War Heritage. It is no different this year as the Artillery Reserve hosts an eclectic group of cannons from around the country and distant shores. The AR welcomes the boys from the West and their families \_\_\_ 3 Iowa, 3 Kansas B, 1 Illinois B & G, 1 Ohio A & L, 4 US B (California), 1 Michigan D, 1 Tennessee B & E, 1 Wisconsin, and 4 USA (Wisconsin) and from the South \_\_\_ Norfolk Blues, Palmetto and Carolina Legions ( Reilly's and Pee Dee). And from Great Britain a hearty "Huzzar" to Andrew Rose, 1st Sgt. Martin Cross and Pvt. Andrew Nettleship. Included in the ranks of the 3rd KS are six gentlemen from Ireland whose names were not known at the time of this printing. The AR wishes everyone a memorable weekend and a safe journey home!

ARMY OF POTOMAC VICTORIOUS, LEE REPULSED AND RETREATING

July 5th.

If Gettysburg is to be remembered for little else it will be remembered for the greatest battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere. Two armies numbering more than 170,000 fought in the fields, pastures, orchards, and hills surrounding this peaceful farming community of 2000. For three days in July under a brilliant summer sun and oppressive heat, troops under the commands of Gens. Meade and Lee fought each other in places never to be forgotten; the Wheatfield, the Peach Orchard, Devils Den, Willoughby Run and Cemetery Hill. In the end it would be a victorious Meade but not before the fields were soaked in blood, the amputated limbs placed in piles, 5000 slaughtered animals lay rotting, more than 50,000 casualties, and the stench of death and pestilence would take its toll. July 1st and 2nd - both armies bitterly contested the surrounding countryside. They would fight in places that will be long remembered for their sacrifices and heroics - but it's the last day, July 3rd that will be remembered always.

The rebels opened at 1 P.M. from about 150 guns in a terrific artillery bombardment, concentrating on the center and continuing without intermission for nearly three hours, at the expiration of which time they began the assault upon the left center. Gen. Hancock received the attack with great firmness, and after a furious battle, lasting until 5 o'clock, the enemy was driven back, Longstreet's corps being almost annihilated.

At 5 P.M. the enemy left the field in utter confusion, leaving dozens of flags and at least five thousand killed and wounded on the field. Nearly three thousand prisoners were taken, many being officers and among those Gen. Armistead. The loss upon our side is considerable. Gens. Hancock, Gibbon and Webb were wounded. The conduct of our veterans was magnificent. More than twenty battle flags were taken by our troops.

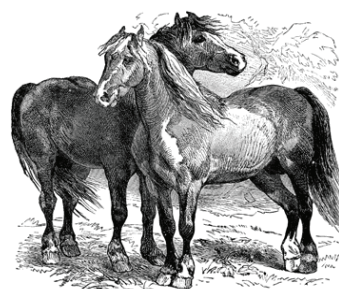
At 7 P.M. Gen. Meade ordered the Third and Sixth corps to attack the enemy right, which was done, and lasted until dark. Reports have come in indicating that the rebels are in retreat in the direction of Williamsport.



ARTILLERY CAMP DEDICATED TO CPL. DAVID "DA" SUHR

The Artillery Reserve Camp will be dedicated to a member of Reynold's Battery, Corporal David Suhr, who passed away in December. Known to his many friends as "DA", David was the Artificer and Historian for Battery L, 1st New York. He served as member of the Board of Trustees and Chief Recruiting Officer. He is survived by his wife Wendy. The dedication will take place at the first Formation to the Colors.

Reynold's Battery will serve as Color Company for the Artillery this weekend. Father George Pucciarelli, Artillery Chaplin, will offer the Invocation. Fr. Pooch, as he is affectionately called, served 30 years in the service of our country as Chaplin of the Marine Corps. He held the rank of Captain and saw action in Beirut, Desert Shield and Desert Storm.



TRIBUTE TO A FAITHFUL FRIEND

It is with a great sense of loss that I must report to you the passing of one of the finest reenactors I have had the pleasure to work alongside, Shenandoah, our old "war horse" these past 20 years. We began our reenacting careers at about the same time. He first served as a single horse pulling a 12 pdr. mtn. howitzer and later as a mount for myself when I became a lieutenant. Alongside his old partner Raven, Shenandoah had the honor of being a part of the 1st two-up team in New England and most recently pulling a field piece and limber as part of a four-up team.

In 1987 my son, Raymond, was involved in a life-altering automobile accident. I thought that his days as a reenactor were over, but with his tenacity and Shenandoah's remarkable sensitivity, Raymond was able to continue his reenacting as a mounted adjutant.

This old gentleman had an amazing life in his 34 years. He was a friend and companion. Someone I counted on frequently and always came through. He was constant, and with me during the high points and low in our reenacting experience. Shenandoah my old friend, you will be missed by many, mourned by some and revered by a few of us. Loren Andrews

LITTLE FUSS OVER JEFF DAVIS' 200TH EVEN IN DIXIE

It hasn't been easy getting people excited about celebrating the 200th birthday of that tall, gaunt bearded, Kentucky-bred president who lead the South through a bloody civil war. "The response to date has been timid", acknowledges B. Hayes-Davis, the great-great grandson of the only president of the short lived Confederate States of America. "Nobody has said no. Many haven't said yes". Even Mississippi, the state where Davis made his plantation fortune and which he retired after the Civil War, gave the idea a lukewarm reception. "The problem with Davis, according to historian James McPherson, is that Davis comes across as a rebel that never accepted defeat, remaining arrogant and unapologetic for his part in the War. Unlike Lee, who emerged as the foremost icon and hero of the Civil War in the South, Lee is seen today as somebody with more admirable qualities than Jefferson Davis", he says. McPherson goes on to say, "Davis comes across as an unreconstructed rebel who never really accepted the defeat of the Confederacy and continued for the rest of his life to write and speak in a way that basically said, "We were right. We lost this war, not because we were wrong, but because the enemy was more powerful and ruthless". The easier answer is that we don't celebrate Davis' birthday for the same reason America doesn't celebrate Benedict Arnold's.