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The Palmyra Massacre

Prior to the American Civil War, Palmyra was a small, quiet and sleepy town in a remote rural backwater of northeast Missouri. After 18 October 1862, it was to become forever remembered for one of the most infamous atrocities of the entire American Civil War which resonated throughout America and Europe long afterwards. It was on the 18 October 1862, that 10 Confederate Prisoners of War were executed in Palmyra, Missouri in reprisal for the abduction and disappearance of a pro Union symphathiser, Andrew Allsman. The Federal Officer who ordered the execution was Colonel John McNeil. He is still known today as "The Butcher of Palmyra".

Andrew Allsman was a 60 year old carpenter by trade who was a Union supporter when the Civil Was broke out. Palmyra, Missouri was a largely pro Confederate area at the time and Andrew Allsman was active in leading and informing Union forces of local Confederate sympathizers in the area which led to their subsequent arrest. He was previously a cavalryman in the 3rd Missouri Cavalry but due to his age was deemed too old for the hardships of active service. However, his detailed and extensive knowledge of both the area and its inhabitants allowed him to become the perfect guide for Union scouting parties sent out to identify and arrest rebels, secessionists and other pro southern sympathisers. As Palmyra was strongly for the South, it was no surprise that Andrew Allsman became exceedingly unpopular and was regarded as tantamount to a Union spy. In September 1862, Andrew Allsman was taken prisoner following a raid of Palmyra by Confederate forces under Colonel Joseph.C Porter who was fully aware of his captive`s pro Union actions and loyalty. However, after several skirmishes, Confederate Colonel Porter felt Andrew Allsman was a liability and decided to set him free. Andrew Allsman was very reluctant to leave as there were several men under Colonel Porter`s command who had had family members that had been informed on by him. As such, he was allowed to select a detail that would safely escort him to the city limits of Palmyra or the safety of Union lines. Andrew Allsman never made it and was never seen or heard of again. It is presumed he was taken into woods and shot in either Marion County or Lewis County.

On October 8 1862, Union Provost Marshal William R. Strachan, acting for Union Colonel O`Neil, published a notice in a local Union Newspaper that unless Andrew Allsman was returned within 10 days, 10 Confederates under Colonel Porter`s command held as prisoners in Palmyra and nearby Hannibal jails would be summarily executed. Colonel Porter was powerless to intervene as most commentators agree that Andrew Allsman had already been killed by aggrieved family members. In addition, many Confederates believed that it was merely a scare and threat that would never be carried out. Nevertheless, on October 17 1862, 10 Confederate Prisoners were selected (5 from Palmyra and 5 from Hannibal) and on 18 October 1862, all 10 were executed

by a firing squad of 30 Union soldiers from the 2nd Missouri State Militia.
The execution took place after the 10 condemned Confederates had been informed the day before that unless Andrew Allsman was returned by 1.00 o`clock the next day, they would be shot at that hour. The Reverend James S. Green, of Palmyra, remained with them throughout the night of the 17 October trying to help them prepare to meet their Maker. A little after 11.00 am, 3 Union wagons drove to the jail. One wagon contained 4, and each of the others, 3 rough board wooden coffins. The condemned men were escorted from the prison and seated in the wagons, one each upon each coffin. A guard of 75 Union soldiers accompanied them to the fair grounds in the east of Palmyra and drove onto the circular amphitheatre within the grounds. The 10 coffins were then removed and placed in a row approximately 7 feet apart forming a line north to south. Following a prayer by the Reverend R.M Rhoades, during which they knelt upon the ground between the coffins, the 10 prisoners then took their seats upon the foot of each coffin. 30 soldiers of the 2nd Missouri State Militia were drawn up in a single line facing the row of coffins about 12 to 13 paces away with reserves also being drawn up in a line upon either flank of the Militia. Following handshakes by the Reverend R.M Rhoades and Colonel Strachan, the Union Post Marshal General with the prisoners, 2 of the prisoners accepted bandages for their eyes with the other 8 refusing. Approximately, 100 spectators gathered around the circular amphitheatre to witness the execution. The Officer in command then gave the order “Ready! Aim! Fire!” . The discharges were not made simultaneously, most probably due to the Union soldiers not being aware of the understanding of the Orders, and only 3 Confederates died instantaneously. The other 7 were not killed outright so the Reserves were called in who completed the task with revolvers. The deceased were then placed in their coffins and 7 were claimed by family members. The other 3 were buried in the public cemetery.

There is an excellent and imposing monument made of granite erected by the Palmyra Confederate Monument Association on 25 Feb 1907 on the Southwest corner of the Marion County

Palmyra Monument Missouri

Court House Square, Palmyra with the names of the 10 Confederates executed.

Capt Thos. A. Sidenor
Willis T Baker
Thomas Humston
Morgan Bixler
John Y. McPheeters
Hiram T. Smith
Herbert Hudson

John M. Wade
Francis M. Lear
Eleazer Lake

Following the massacre, it was claimed that Union Colonel Strachan had spared the life of one of the intended victims (Tom Humphrey) in exchange for $500 paid by Tom Humphrey`s wife. He is also said to have violated the chastity of Mrs Humphrey as part of the bargain. He was later acquitted of rape but found guilty of embezzlement and sentenced to 1 years imprisonment and ordered to pay back $680 of state funds following a trial in 1864. He was later released early by Union General Rosecrans as he personally disapproved of the Courts findings.

In addition, reports surfaced that Andrew Allsman had been seen alive in September 1862 in the company of 2 Confederate guerillas, near Troublesome Creek in Missouri. In 1877, a farmer walking along Troublesome Creek found a skull thought to be Andrew Allsman`s. It was subsequently put on display by a Pharmacist and then others before being returned to his family for burial. However, rumours prevail to this day that it still exists unburied. Andrew Allsman is thought to have been killed by some of his enemies rather than men of Colonel Porters command and certainly nothing to do with the 10 innocent Confederates who were executed.

Sadly, the actual site of this infamous massacre and burial place of the victims at the old fairgrounds and amphitheatre in Palmyra is now under development for residential housing.

Article by Stewart “Goober” Douglas 20/7/12.

The Projects Team

Who would believe that we are at the end of another season, but sadly we are. A season of mixed fortunes with regards to the weather. Do you remember how cold it was at Sewerby, and how warm and dry it was at Tatton and Hull. Spetchley began with a thunderstorm on Friday afternoon then the sun came out and stayed with us all weekend. Sheffield was fairly dry all weekend until it came to packing up time and the heavens opened and most of us went home with wet tents. Then we went to Ingleton… surely it cannot rain for the third year, we all thought. Alas Ingleton was well… Ingleton , so much so the sponsors decided to cancel the Sunday’s activities and the farmer towed most of us off the field, as car after car sank to the hubcaps in mud. I cannot recall another season where we have had so many cars towed from fields.

On a better note, every sponsor has expressed their appreciation and pleasure regarding both our standard of Living History and skirmishes this season. A sharp intake of breath was heard at Sheffield on during Monday’s skirmish when the ‘little house’ was

blown apart, followed by a loud cheer and applause.
The new site at Ingleton proved to be a hit with both members and the public. The Organisers reported that over 200 people attended the skirmish on Saturday afternoon and some hardy souls visited the camp in the rain on Sunday morning before the cancellation of the event. I am discussion with the organisers with regards to having the artillery in attendance next year and also improving the site of the Family Camp.
I am pleased to report that Viv has had knee replacement operation and is recovering well. I am sure I speak for us all in wishing her a good and swift recovery.
In conclusion to this report, the Projects Team are still working on events for next season. Please see the list below for confirmed and provision dates for 2013.
May I be the first to wish you 'A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year' and keep your powder dry until next year.

13-14 April	Confederate Training Weekend Tatton Old Hall **Confirmed**
11-12 May	Marbury Merriday Marbury Cheshire Living History and skirmish Infantry and Artillery **Confirmed**
15-16 June	Crieff (Scotland)Living History and Drill Infantry and Cavalry **Confirmed** (This Event has been rearranged from last year).
6-7 July	Tatton Old Hall Living History and skirmish Infantry and Artillery **Confirmed**
27-28 July	Hull Veterans Day Living History and skirmish Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry **Provisional** (we will attend if funding allows the event to go ahead).
17-18 August	There are two events **provisionally** booked for this weekend and we hope to cover both as they are at opposite ends of the country. Spetchley Park Living History and skirmish Infantry and Artillery and Scottish Festival of History, Hamilton, Scotland. Living History and Drill only Infantry.

Please Note that the Federal Training Weekend has yet to be finalised, you will know as soon as I know. Keep watching the website.

Peter Holt and Viv Crobishley
The Projects Team

Battle of Mobile Bay

With the fall of New Orleans in April 1862, Mobile, Alabama became the Confederacy's principal port in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Situated at the head of Mobile Bay, the city relied on a series of forts at the bay's mouth to provide protection from naval attack. The cornerstones of this defence were Forts Morgan (46 guns) and Gaines (26) which guarded the main channel in to the bay. While Fort Morgan was built upon a spit of land extending from the mainland, Fort Gaines was constructed to the west on Dauphin Island. Fort Powell (18) guarded the western approaches.

While the fortifications were substantial, they were flawed in that their guns did not protect against assault from the rear. Command of these defences was entrusted to Brigadier General Richard Page. To support the army, the Confederate Navy operated three side-wheel gunboats, CSS Selma (4), CSS Morgan (6), and CSS Gaines (6) in the bay, as well as the new ironclad CSS Tennessee (6). These naval forces were led by Admiral Franklin Buchanan who had commanded CSS Virginia (10) during the Battle of Hampton Roads.

In addition, a torpedo (mine) field was laid on the eastern side of the channel to force attackers closer to Fort Morgan. With operations against Vicksburg and Port Hudson concluded, Rear Admiral David G. Farragut began planning an attack on Mobile. While Farragut's believed his ships were capable of running past the forts, he required army cooperation for their capture. To this end, he was given 2,000 men under the command of Major General George G. Granger. As communication between and the fleet and Granger's men ashore would be required, Farragut embarked a group of US Army signalmen.

For the assault, Farragut possessed fourteen wooden warships as well as four ironclads. Aware of the minefield, his plan called for the ironclads to pass close to Fort Morgan, while the wooden warships advanced to the outside using their armoured comrades as a screen. As a precaution, the wooden vessels were lashed together in pairs so if one were disabled, its partner could pull it to safety. Though the army was ready to launch the attack on August 3, Farragut hesitated as he wished to await the arrival of his fourth ironclad, USS Tecumseh (2), which was en route from Pensacola.

Believing that Farragut was going to attack, Granger began landing on Dauphin Island, but did not assault Fort Gaines. On the morning of August 5, Farragut's fleet moved into position to attack with Tecumseh leading the ironclads and the screw sloop USS Brooklyn (21) and the double-ender USS Octorara (6) leading the wooden ships. Farragut's flagship, USS Hartford and its consort USS Metacomet (9) were second in line. At 6:47 AM, Tecumseh opened the action by firing on Fort Morgan. Rushing towards the fort, the Union ships opened fire and the battle began in earnest.

Passing Fort Morgan, Commander Tunis Craven led Tecumseh too far west and entered the minefield. Shortly thereafter, a mine detonated beneath the ironclad sinking it and claiming all but 21 of its 114-man crew. Captain James Alden of Brooklyn, confused by Craven's actions halted his ship and signalled Farragut for instructions. Lashed high in Hartford's rigging to get a better view of the battle, Farragut was unwilling to halt the fleet while under fire and ordered the flagship's captain, Percival Drayton, to press on by steering around Brooklyn despite the fact that this course led through the minefield.

At this point, Farragut reputedly uttered some form of the famed order, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" Farragut's risk paid off and the entire fleet passed safely through the minefield. Having cleared the forts, the Union ships engaged

Buchanan's gunboats and CSS Tennessee. Cutting the lines tying it to Hartford, Metacomet quickly captured Selma while other Union ships badly damaged Gaines forcing its crew to beach it. Outnumbered and out-gunned, Morgan fled north to Mobile. While Buchanan had hoped to ram several Union ships with Tennessee, he found that the ironclad was too slow for such tactics.

Having eliminated the Confederate gunboats, Farragut focused his fleet on destroying Tennessee. Though unable to sink Tennessee after heavy fire and ramming attempts, the wooden Union ships succeeded in shooting away it smokestack and severing its rudder chains. As a result, Buchanan was unable to steer or raise sufficient boiler pressure when the ironclads USS Manhattan (2) and USS Chickasaw (4) arrived on the scene. Pummelling the Confederate ship, they forced it to surrender after several of the crew, including Buchanan, were wounded. With the capture of Tennessee, the Union fleet controlled Mobile Bay.

While Farragut's sailors eliminated Confederate resistance at sea, Granger's men easily captured Forts Gaines and Powell with gunfire support from Farragut's ships. Shifting across the bay, they conducted siege operations against Fort Morgan which fell on August 23. Farragut's losses during the battle numbered 150 killed (most aboard Tecumseh) and 170 wounded, while Buchanan's small squadron lost 12 dead and 19 wounded. Ashore, Granger's casualties were minimal and numbered 1 dead and 7 wounded. Confederate battle losses were minimal, though the garrisons at Forts Morgan and Gaines were captured. Though he lacked sufficient manpower to capture Mobile, Farragut's presence in the bay effectively closed the port to Confederate traffic. Coupled with Major General William T. Sherman's successful Atlanta Campaign, the victory at Mobile Bay helped assure the re-election of President Abraham Lincoln that November

WEDDING BELLS

Major Tim Davies and Caroline (Caz) Carnell tied the knot on 29th September. At All Saints Church in Gainsborough. Lincs

We wish them All the Very Best and a long and happy marriage.

Why No Red Cross?

I was recently asked at an event by a member of the public why the yellow flag with a green 'H' was displayed over the medical tent and not that of the familiar 'red cross'.

Fortunately, as I had been a member of the British Red Cross for a number of years in my youth, and had visited the headquarters in Geneva way back in the 70's, I could answer the question.

Prior to the nineteenth century, the symbols used to identify armed forces' medical services varied according to their country of origin. The symbols were not generally well known, were rarely respected and were not entitled to any form of legal protection. (remember our yellow flag with its green 'H'). In the second half of the nineteenth century, the rapid development in firearms technology led to a dramatic increase in the number of dead and wounded during wartime. On 24 June 1859, the War of Italian Unification was raging. Henry Dunant, a Swiss citizen, was on a private trip that took him to the town of Solferino. There, he witnessed the misery of more than 45,000 soldiers abandoned, dead or wounded, on the battlefield. Back in Geneva, Henry Dunant started writing a book proposing drastic improvements in the assistance afforded to war victims. In 1862, "A Memory of Solferino" was published. The book puts forward two proposals:

- to set up in peacetime and in every country volunteer groups to take care of casualties in wartime;
- to get countries to agree to protect first aid volunteers and the wounded on the battlefield;

The first proposal was the origin of the National Societies that now exist in 183 countries; and the second was the origin of the Geneva Conventions now signed by 192 States. On 17 February 1863, a five-member committee, the future International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), met to study Dunant's proposals. One of its main objectives was to adopt a single distinctive symbol backed by the law to indicate respect for army medical services, volunteers with first aid societies and the victims of armed conflicts. The symbol needed to be simple, identifiable from a distance, known to everyone and identical for friend and foe. The emblem had to be the same for everyone and universally recognizable. On 26 October 1863, the first International Conference was convened. It included delegates from 14 governments. In addition to adopting ten resolutions, which provided for the establishment of relief societies for wounded soldiers - the future Red Cross and, later, Red Crescent Societies - it also adopted the red cross on a white background as the uniform distinctive emblem. In August 1864, the Diplomatic Conference, convened for the purpose of transforming the resolutions adopted in 1863 into treaty rules, adopted the First Geneva Convention. Modern international humanitarian law was born. The First Geneva Convention recognized the red cross on a white background as the single distinctive emblem. Since the emblem was to reflect the neutrality of the armed forces' medical services and the protection conferred on them, the emblem adopted was formed by reversing the colours of the Swiss flag. Switzerland's permanent neutral status had been firmly established in practice for several years, and had been confirmed by the Treaties of Vienna and Paris in 1815. Furthermore, the white

flag was and remains a symbol of the wish to negotiate or to surrender; firing on anyone displaying it in good faith is unacceptable. The resulting symbol had the advantage of being easily produced and recognizable at a distance because of its contrasting colours. In 1870, Clara Barton, (the famous Civil War nurse) accompanied volunteers from the International Red Cross as they went onto the battlefield of the Franco-Prussian War. She helped distribute supplies while wearing the newest symbol that represented the Red Cross (red cross with a white background, opposite of the Swiss flag). She was so inspired by the efforts and triumphs of the volunteers of the International Red Cross that she took this movement all the way to President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1877 where it was unfortunately rejected. Later, President James Garfield was supportive of her appeal but did not get a chance to sign it before he was assassinated. Barton and some supporters established the American Association of the Red Cross in 1881, as a corporation in the District of Columbia. US President, Chester Arthur, signed the treaty in 1882, and the Senate approved it just days later.. In 1893, the American Association of the Red Cross was reincorporated the American National Red Cross. For the first 20 years of its life, the American Red Cross was committed to disaster relief efforts. In 1884, chartered steamers were used by the American Red Cross to bring supplies up and down the Mississippi and the Ohio Rivers to victims of floods. After the tenure of Barton, the American Red Cross continued to expand in its scope and mission. It undertook more ambitious efforts and spent its time assisting more diverse matters. For example, during the Spanish-American War, the American Red Cross brought supplies to Cuba. People who got help from the Red Cross included prisoners of war, US armed forces, and refugees from Cuba. That marked the first time that the American Red Cross provided aid to civilians and US armed forces during a war, and that's why you should not see a 'Red Cross' displayed on an ACWS battlefield or camp.

Val Holt
69th New York

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Siege of Yorktown

While Yorktown is most significant for the Revolutionary War siege of 1781, which effectively ended the conflict, during the American Civil War was again the site of major siege operations during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862

As the Civil War entered its second year, President Lincoln favored an attack on Richmond from the vicinity of Washington, DC. But the commander of the Army of the Potomac, Major General George B. McClellan, persuaded Lincoln that a move on Richmond up what it known as "The Peninsula" was a better approach. Virginia's York and James Rivers, which formed the Peninsula, would enable the Union navy to support the land campaign. And the Union army still held Fort Monroe at the tip of the Peninsula -- giving a base from which to begin operations.
The Confederate leaders, however, had planned for this Union offensive. In 1861, Major General John Bankhead Magruder, commander of the Army of the Peninsula, began constructing defensive lines across the peninsula. He anchored his left flank at Yorktown, improving and strengthening existing Revolutionary War fortifications. From Yorktown, 12 miles of new earthworks spanned southward to the Warwick River and then continued along the Warwick River for several miles before angling westward and ending at the James River. Magruder also made effective use of the terrain, using dams to flood the lowlands. He fortified the dams with earthworks and troops.

Initially, Magruder had only 11,000 men to hold his entire line. General Robert E. Lee, serving as military advisor to President Jefferson Davis, saw the need to reinforce Magruder's line while General Joseph E. Johnston insisted this line be abandoned and Magruder's troops be concentrated with others in a closer defense of Richmond. Lee's ideas prevailed. As the Union army advanced on Yorktown, Magruder's strength was increased. On April 12, 1862, Magruder's Army of the Peninsula was consolidated in to the Army of Northern Virginia, with General Joseph E. Johnston in command. Magruder now commanded a wing of Johnston's

Images as published in
Harper's Weekly 1862

army which ultimately grew to 56,000 troops.
In April 1862, McClellan reached Fort Monroe, where an armada of almost 400 vessels had delivered his army of over 100,000 troops. After making a reconnaissance of the Confederate line and with intelligence reports projecting southern forces as large as his own, McClellan decided to lay siege to Yorktown. Brigadier General Fitz-John Porter was placed in charge of siege operations and work on Union

fortifications began. Meanwhile, Magruder, and later Johnston, kept improving the Confederate defenses.
Rainy weather favored the defenders. Magruder's dams turned small streams into major barriers. However, the Union army made advances and prepared more positions. Minor forays gave new soldiers combat experience and broke the monotony of the siege.
A serious threat came on April 16 when a Union assault tried to force the Confederates to halt work on their defenses at Dam No. 1 near Lee's Mill, several miles from Yorktown.
At one point, in a balloon operated by Professor Thaddeus Lowe, General Fitz-John Porter made an observation flight over Confederate lines. When the mooring broke, the balloon drifted over the enemy. Before the Confederates could fire on Porter, a changing wind carried him back to his own lines. Despite this problem, Professor Lowe continued his observation flights. This was an early step in the development of aerial reconnaissance.

Despite harassing fire, McClellan's troops slowly advanced their siege works and artillery. The Union arsenal of 101 siege guns included Parrott guns ranging from 20 pounders (weight of the shell) to 200 pounders. There were over 40 siege mortars, the largest being the 13 inch seacoast mortar which weighed almost 9 tons and fired a 220 pound shell. Never before had so much artillery been massed in one place in the history of the world.

While Union field batteries fired continuously during the siege, only one siege battery fired on the Confederates. McClellan planned to open his artillery barrage on May 5, concentrating his efforts at Yorktown and along a portion of the Confederate line just outside Yorktown. The plan also called for Union gunboats to give supporting fire from the York River.
McClellan, to the irritation of some, always insisted on thoroughness in planning and preparation, and the Peninsula Campaign was no exception. He overestimated his foe's strength and suddenly Johnston, in the face of superior numbers and firepower, forfeited the ground as untenable. As early as April 30, Johnston had planned to withdraw. Around midnight of May 3, the Confederate heavy guns had ceased their diverting fire, were spiked and left behind by the retreating army. At

Federal Artillery at Yorktown

dawn on the 4th, the Union army discovered Yorktown abandoned. However, the Confederates had left behind a new weapon of war -- land mines, which claimed the lives of several Union soldiers.
The Confederate withdrawal was well planned and executed. A mile east of Williamsburg, Magruder had built

cont on page 17..

HULL VETERAN'S DAY

Photos by courtesy

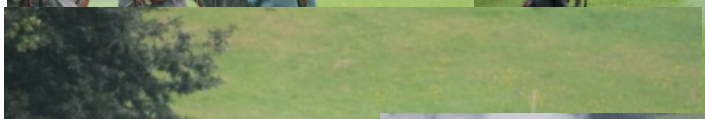
Of Ian Morris

SHEFFIELD FAYRE

Photos by courtesy of

Ian Morris

SHEFFIELD FAYRE



Photos by courtesy

Of Ian Morris

INGLETON

Photos by courtesy

of Ian Morris

Cont from page 12.

another fortified line. Johnston elected to delay the Union pursuit here. On the afternoon of the 4th, the Battle of Williamsburg began, lasting into the next day. Confederate casualties for the battle were 1,600, while Union losses were 2,300. On May 6, Johnston resumed his march towards Richmond.

By delaying the Union army for almost a month, the Confederates had obtained valuable time to assemble and organize the forces that eventually beat McClellan back from the gates of Richmond and thwarted the Union's Peninsula Campaign. On August 26, 1862, General George B. McClellan and most of the Army of the Potomac left the Peninsula. Some regiments were left behind at Yorktown.

Yorktown remained in Union control for the rest of the war and was maintained as a military garrison until the summer of 1864. In 1863, forces from Yorktown participated in what is known as the Second Peninsula Campaign against Richmond. The following year, almost 40,000 troops of the Army of the James used Yorktown and Gloucester Point (across the York River from Yorktown) as a staging area for the Bermuda Hundred Campaign. Later in 1864, during the start of the Petersburg siege, Major General Ulysses S. Grant ordered Yorktown abandoned.

Today, well preserved Union and Confederate fortifications are reminders of Yorktown's Civil War history. A National Cemetery, established in 1866, contains over 2,200 interments, mostly Union dead. Nearby is a small Confederate burial ground of undetermined size.

The Yorkshire Rebel

Harry Dixon Jessop was born at Meaux Abbey Farm in the East Riding of Yorkshire in 1844 and died in Middlesbrough in the North Riding of Yorkshire in 1909. He is buried in Linthorpe Cemetery in Middlesbrough. During his life, he worked as a farm labourer, a sailor, a stevedore, a shopkeeper and as a self employed businessman. Well so what Goober? Well, Harry Dixon also fought as a Confederate Cavalryman throughout the American Civil War until the very end when he was mustered out in May 1865. This is his amazing story.

Before 1858, Harry was a young farmer working in East Yorkshire but deciding that farming was not for him, he embarked on a naval career with a merchant ship in the nearby local port of Hull. The name of the ship is lost to history but it was bound for the Americas and by 1859, Harry was working on the Mississippi and by all accounts was happy and content with his new life. On 12 April 1861, the American Civil War broke out with the bombardment of Fort Sumpter in South Carolina. At first, the war didn't appear to affect Harry as he continued his work and avoided the conflict. However, by early 1862, the Confederacy was finding it difficult to recruit troops despite the early surge of volunteers and at the age of 18, Harry was conscripted into the Confederate States Army. His horse sealed his fate as the Confederacy

desperately needed horses and men and he was enlisted in the cavalry on the July 1862 at Garlandsville, Jasper County, Mississippi. He joined Company C, 15th Alabama Partisan Rangers, a unit classified as a Mississippi unit in Confederate war records.

In 1862, there are limited records of Harry`s Unit but it was first assigned to the Army of the Gulf and later served in General Cumming`s Brigade at Mobile and acted as scouts and pickets against Union raids into Confederate Territory. In April 1863, Harry`s unit was transferred to north eastern Mississippi with about 350 men. Here they were attached to Brigadier General Daniel Ruggles 1st Military District in Okolona and between 15 May and 8 June 1863, the 15th Alabama was consolidated with the 56th Alabama Partisan Rangers. It was during this period that Harry`s unit was heavily involved in 2 engagements. Between 2nd May and 4th May at Kings Creek, Union forces mounted a raid into north eastern Mississippi. The raid of 5,000 Union troops was commanded by Colonel Florence M. Corbyn and was intended to threaten the important Mobile and Ohio railroad. It was driven back with Union losses of 15 to 20 killed and 30 to 40 wounded and rebel losses of 6 killed and 8 wounded. Between 13th and 22nd June, Union troops were involved in a series of further raids into north east Mississippi. The Union strength was only 500 men and Brigadier Ruggles was ordered to press and attack the enemy wherever found. It was at Mud Creek and Rocky Ford that the Confederates routed the Federals who had nearly 50 killed and all their baggage and ammunition lost. Confederate Reports indicate Harry`s Unit was heavily engaged throughout.

On 28 August 1863, the 56th Alabama Partisan Rangers was re-organised into newly promoted Brigadier General Samuel Wragg Ferguson`s brigade.

In response to the Confederate victory at Chickamauga on the 20 September 1863 and to relieve the surrounded Union Army at Chattanooga, General Sherman led 17,000 Union troops from the Big Black river to Chattanooga. In response, Confederate General S.D Lee assembled a force including General Ferguson`s Brigade to oppose this march. Throughout October 1863, this force constantly harassed General Sherman by ripping up rail tracks and disrupting communications and baggage trains until he abandoned his plans. In November 1863, Ferguson`s s brigade had returned to Okolona. Between November and December 1863, Ferguson`s brigade left Okolona and were ordered to attack Pocahontas, a small town on the Memphis Charlotte railway. Harry never talked about his experiences in the Civil War after the conflict due to painful memories but it is worth quoting a paragraph from Brigadier General Ferguson`s private papers (courtesy of Ferguson Private Papers) that occurred during this

march that Harry must have endured :

" I had to push on a few miles to reach a camping ground with timber, when I reached it, some of the troops had to be taken off their horses, poor fellows they had cotton clothing only, and no overcoats nor blankets. The snow continued to the depth of several inches, the next day`s march accomplished but few miles, the snow balled the horses feet, all the time it got colder and colder, the night was one of great suffering. I was convinced that by this time the enemy was informed of my coming and that with their numbed hands the men could not fight nor load their muzzle loading pieces and so turned back, and my action was approved. I lost upwards of 300 hundred horses with lung fever contracted on the march, and some men from pneumonia" .

In late January 1864, Brigadier General Ferguson`s Brigade was ordered to Crystal Springs to rendezvous with General S.D Lee as General Sherman and 20,000 Federal troops had begun his Meridian Campaign. The Confederates were ordered to intercept General Sherman`s advance. On 4th February, the forces met and Brigadier General Ferguson`s brigade along with the 2nd Alabama Cavalry and the 32nd Alabama Infantry clashed and a running battle ensued all day long at Champion`s Hill, Baker`s Creek and Bolton Depot. General Sherman`s advance was not stopped despite continual harassment by Ferguson`s Brigade and he entered Meridian on 14 February 1864.

In early May, Ferguson`s Brigade became part of General W.H Jackson`s Cavalry Division and was ordered to Alabama as part of the Army of Mississippi. On 8th May, Ferguson was ordered to report to General Joe E Johnston at Kingston, Georgia who was raising an army to oppose General Sherman who was massing his Union Troops along the Tennessee with the intention of marching on Atlanta. On arrival, the Brigade was sent directly to the front and was subsequently engaged on an almost daily basis. Although Harry rarely talked about his Civil War experiences, he did recall to his son how, during this fighting in the war, he and the rebel cavalry, would cover the infantry. He recalls how his brigade would dismount, with horse holders in the rear, and occupy the trenches in a very thin line whilst the infantry retired and fortified new positions in the rear particularly around Atlanta. He stated this occurred frequently as they continuously parried the enemy and sheltered in the trenches. He came across many torn and broken bodies felled by sharp shooters and on many occasions had to crawl over the shattered corpses of his friends and comrades. The 25 May saw major battles at New Hope Church and Kennesaw Mountain and once again Ferguson`s Brigade was heavily engaged. The rain poured incessantly and the soldiers suffered great hardships. Whilst falling back between 26 May and the 1st June, the Brigade fought in the trenches around Marietta. On 26 June, the Brigade attacked the rear of Sherman`sArmy

and burnt the bridge over Noyes Creek, near Powder Springs. By 10th July, they were now attacking with General Wheelers rebel cavalry on the Confederate right flank. On 20 July, the Brigade was in action at Peachtree Creek and came off badly mauled. On 22 July, the Brigade attacked the town of Decatur on foot and captured it after house to house fighting. They later had to fall back and for the next several weeks fought around Atlanta particularly parrying the numerous Union raids along the 3 railroads entering the city. In the end, Ferguson`s men covered the retreat of the Rebel Army as it became clear to the new Confederate Commander, General John Bell Hood that Atlanta would fall. They fought in the trenches between 1st and 2nd September as Atlanta was abandoned.

After the fall of Atlanta, General Sherman set out on his infamous "March to the Sea" on 14 November 1864 leaving the city in smouldering and blackened ruins. Due to a lack of resources, all the Confederates could do was harass General Sherman`s march and Ferguson`s Brigade attached to General Wheeler`s under strength cavalry corps did exactly that on a day to day basis throughout the 300 mile march to Savannah. They picked up many Federal prisoners who were plundering and straggling as well as Union wagons sent out to collect forage. However, Sherman`s march continued unabated and outside Savannah, once again, Ferguson`s Brigade was in the trenches reinforcing weak spots before the inevitable siege began between 10th and 21st December. On 21st and 22nd December, the Confederates abandoned Savannah and Ferguson`s Brigade acted once again as the rear guard.

After leaving Savannah, Ferguson`s Brigade camped in the low country of South Carolina over the Christmas period where the Unit earned some well earned rest after the Dalton-Atlanta campaign. On 17 January 1865, Harry`s Company C of the 56th Alabama Regiment was transferred to the 10th Mississippi Cavalry commanded by Colonel William Inge although still in Ferguson`s Brigade and moved to Augusta in South Carolina to ascertain Union strength operating out of Charleston. They operated in this area from February to early April before being moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. On 19th April 1865, Ferguson met President Davis at Charlotte, North Carolina and were assigned escort duties from Charlotte to Washington, Georgia and accompanied the President throughout during these last days of the Confederacy. On 4th May, Ferguson was directed by General Breckinridge to discharge his men and on 5th May 1865, Harry`s war ended having served the Confederacy loyally from the very day he was conscripted on 29July 1863 in Garlandsville. Ferguson`s private papers state " for when the end came, more than one hundred and twenty remained true as steel, ready to follow the President wherever he may go! I

have their names on the Confederate paper of the day, to me, a precious roll of honour" . Harry`s name was included.
Following the War, Harry was left alone in a defeated country. He travelled through the Southern states vulnerable, desolate and on foot as his horse that had carried him through the war had died. He was close to death when he eventually found shelter with an ex slave family called Harradine who nursed him back to health. He lived and worked with them for sometime before returning to the United Kingdom on a vessel called the Ocean Spray on 11 April 1866.

A number of entries in his diary before his death in 1909 may be of interest. In the 1901 United Kingdom Census, it was recorded that Harry and his family of 6 children lived with a Maria Harradine. His family state she was the daughter of the ex slave family who saved his life after the Civil War and when Harry met her at the docks of Hull she lived from that day forward as a member of his family. At the end of the War in 1865, it is also recorded that Harry came into possession of a personal pennant belonging to Confederate General S.D Lee. He held it in high esteem and no family member was allowed to touch it but one day someone attempted to clean it and due to its fragile old age it fell to pieces. Harry was devastated. Finally, just before his death, Harry received a communication from America stating that as a Confederate Veteran he may be entitled to a medal, The Southern Cross of Honour. An American friend who had informed him sent the Medal over just after Harry had died. However, it arrived just before his burial. His son placed it in his coffin just before he was interred. It lies today in his grave in the Linthorpe Cemetery in Middlesbrough, North East England.
Main Sources : The Life and Times of Yorkshireman, Harry Dixon Jessop 1844 – 1909. Late of the Confederate States Army 1862 – 1865.
Author Chris Carter 2010.
Brigadier General Samuel Wragg Ferguson`s Private Papers

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

THE NEW HARDY HAT?

(taken at Tim & Caz's wedding)

Here we have our Society's Secretary, Mr Philip Clark, proudly modelling the 19th Indiana's new head gear for the coming season. For those who wish to order, please see Mrs Jennifer Clark, as she knows how and where to order.

I have to say Philip, it looked better on Jennifer.

Ken Hart 1928-2012

Ken Hart, until having to give up re-enactment due to ill health, will be remembered by many of his comrades in the Confederate Army as portraying the Provost Marshall. He was an intelligent and thoughtful member of the 43rd North Carolina regiment with a self deprecating wit who readily appreciated the humour and joy of re-enacting. He was noted-and indeed recognised-for his 'alter-ego' impression of Colonel Freemantle of the British Army. Indeed in his bright red uniform he was unmissable. Another of his lesser known talents was playing the mouth –organ and dancing impromptu 'jigs' when the Confederate musicians were playing on camp in the evenings.

Ken always played a full and enthusiastic part in camp life and was a veritable repository of stories and anecdotes concerning his former career in the R.A.F. and his life experiences. He was always ready with advice and encouragement to new members as well giving any practicable assistance where possible. Ken will be fondly remembered as an integral part of camp life and his presence around the campfire will be greatly missed by his many friends both in his adopted regiment and those in the ACWS who knew him.

In October 2011 Ken lost his long term partner Margaret after many years together. Earlier this year he was diagnosed with cancer and spent time in hospital. In July he was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour and died in a hospice on Sept 7th 2012. Our deepest condolences to his daughters Claire and Sonya also his son Phillip and all his family and friends.

Submitted by

Denis Jarwick 43rd N.C.

It is always sad when we have to say goodbye to an old comrade. I am sure many a glass will be raised in Ken's memory when we all meet again next season.

On a happier note let us all welcome a very new recruit.

Jessica-Josie Isabella Holman 8th Sept 2012

This little princess kept us all waiting, but I think you'll agree she's well worth the wait. Congratulations to proud parents Ami and Will.

CSS GEORGIA RESURFACES

On December 21 1864, as General Shermans March to the Sea arrived at Savannah, it was on that very same day that the Confederates scuttled the CSS Georgia in the Savannah river with the intention of ensuring she never fell into Yankee hands. It has remained undisturbed and practically forgotten at the bottom of the Savannah river for 150 years. However, the Confederate behemoth which never fired a single shot in anger against the Yankee invaders is soon to surface once again. It will cost £14 million to remove and conserve the ironclad remains including casemate, guns and cannonballs. The total dredging project will cost $652 million.

The CSS Georgia, also known as the Ladies` Ram, was built in Savannah, Georgia in 1862 and launched and commissioned in 1863. She was initially designed as an ironclad gunboat of 250 feet in length and 60 feet in width. She was commanded by Lieutenant Washington Gwathmey CSN with a complement of 200 Officers and men. She was armed with 4 to 9 guns and her primary goal was the defence of the river channels below the important Confederate port of Savannah. She was sponsored in the tune of $115,000 by the Savannah Ladies Gunboat Association hence her name. Even by Civil War standards, she was of rudimentary design and construction. She was built by novices and apprentices out of old iron rail with chronically underpowered engines. As such, it quickly became clearly evident that she lacked the engine power for any offensive movement let alone engagement as she was totally unable to counter the river current. As such, she was subsequently anchored in the Savannah river and employed as a floating battery rather than an ironclad gunboat. She only lasted 20 months before Shermans Army descended on Savannah and the Confederates scuttled her before abandoning her for any potential Union use. After settling on the bottom of the Savannah river, she lay totally unnoticed for over 100 years before a dredging operation in 1968 discovered the wreck site. Although the site has since been avoided due to being classified as a Government protected site, it is accepted that some damage will have occurred from dredging equipment and anchors. However, identified remains include part of the foreward, after casemate, engines, boilers, shafts, propellers and condensers alongwithseveralcannonandordinance. The US Army Corps of Engineers will salvage the CSS Georgia in order to facilitate access to the fourth busiest harbour in the USA. The CSS Georgia is still doing its job today, 150 years after the Civil War, by still preventing larger US ships from entering the port! The salvage will cost $14 million which is more or less 122 times what it cost to build! Interesting to note that the CSS Georgia is still classified today as a captured enemy vessel.

Article by

Stewart “Goober” Douglas

43rd N. C.

St Barbara

This article was originally post to A.C.W.S.'s Wall on Face Book by Martin Cross of Battery 'B' and I thought it well worth printing here for those who are not on facebook, and yes there are some people who do not subscribe to FB.

"According to legend, Saint Barbara was the extremely beautiful daughter of a wealthy heathen named Dioscorus, who lived near Nicomedia in Asia Minor. Because of her great beauty and worried that she would be demanded in marriage and taken away from him, he jealously shut her up in a tower to protect her from the outside world.

Shortly before leaving on a journey, he commissioned a sumptuous bathhouse to be built for her, approving the design before he departed. Barbara had heard of the teachings of Christ, and while her father was gone spent much time in contemplation. From the windows of her tower she looked out upon the surrounding countryside and marveled at the growing things; the trees, the animals and the people. She decided that all these must be part of a master plan, and that the idols of wood and stone worshipped by her parents must be condemned as false. Gradually she came to accept the Christian faith.

As her belief became stronger, she directed that the builders re-design the bathhouse her father had planned, adding another window so that the three windows might symbolize the Holy Trinity.

When her father returned, he was enraged at the changes and infuriated when Barbara acknowledged that she was a Christian. He dragged her before the prefect of the province, who decreed that she be tortured and put to death by beheading. Dioscorus himself carried out the death sentence. On his way home he was struck by lightening and his body consumed.

Saint Barbara lived and died about the year 300 A.D. She was venerated as early as the seventh century. The legend of the lightning bolt which struck down her persecutor caused her to be regarded as the patron saint in time of danger from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death.

When gunpowder made its appearance in the Western world, Saint Barbara was invoked for aid against accidents resulting from explosions, as many of the early artillery pieces often blew up instead of firing their projectile, Saint Barbara became the patroness of the artillerymen.

Saint Barbara is usually represented standing by a tower with three windows, carrying the palm of a martyr in her hand. Often, too, she holds a chalice and a sacramental wafer and sometimes cannon are displayed near her

In the modern calendar, the feast of Saint Barbara falls on December 4th

Martin E Cross

A.C.W.S. Newsletter
Advertising Rates

Premium position (full colour)

Space	Per Issue	Full Year (4 issues)
Rear Cover	£50	£150
Inside Front Cover	£30	£100
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Centre Page (double)	£50	£150
Full Page	£25	£60
Half Page	£15	£40

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1/8 Page	N/A	£10
Classified Advert (Members)	Free of Charge	Free of Charge
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Notes:

1. All adverts to be supplied as finished artwork in either PDF or Microsoft Word format
2. Annual space must be paid for in advance
3. All fees must be received in advance of publication
4. Deadlines must be agreed with the Editor.
5. Annual adverts may be changed for each issue, provided the artwork is supplied in accordance with the deadlines.

A.C.W.S. CAVALRY
DATES FOR 2013

16/17 March, Training,
Mark Atkinson's yard, details to follow.

27/28 April, Training,
Mark Atkinson's yard, details to follow.

Late May Bank Holiday, tba.

15/16 June, Crieff
27/28 July, Hull, tbc.

August Bank Holiday, tba.

MAMA'S MUTTERINGS

This is the last issue of the newsletter for 2012. They say that the years roll by faster as you get older and this seems to be proving so for me. Since I retired from work I seem to have less and less time to spare, so I am grateful to those of you who send me articles to put in the newsletter.

I must say a special thanks to Stewart 'Goober' Douglas for his many contributions this year and also to Kevin Booth, (Devious Wolf) Stephen Griffith, (Griff) and Ian Morris, for allowing me to use their wonderful photos for our centre spread.

I hope to see a lot of you at the AGM and to those who don't make it there, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. See you all next Season.
Val Holt. Editor

Dear ACWS Members

Further Information Regarding New Chairman For ACWS.

Or should it be "Chairperson"? Nothing to stop a lady putting herself forward!

Please be advised that, at Sheffield Norfolk Park, Martin Davis advised me that he was withdrawing from contesting the Chairman's post at this year's AGM.

We therefore currently have one valid candidate, duly proposed & seconded, in David Blackmore, the bi-partisan Cavalry Commander.

Should anybody else wish to put themselves forward for the job of Chairman of ACWS, please let me know in writing by NO LATER than Saturday 6th October 2012 as per the AGM Notice. Any such candidate needs to be proposed and seconded in writing by two current ACWS Members. Indeed, all Directors' posts can be contested as all Directors put themselves up for re-election each AGM.

For and on behalf of the Board,

Philip Clark Company

Secretary and Acting Chairman
4th September 2012

DRIVER WANTED

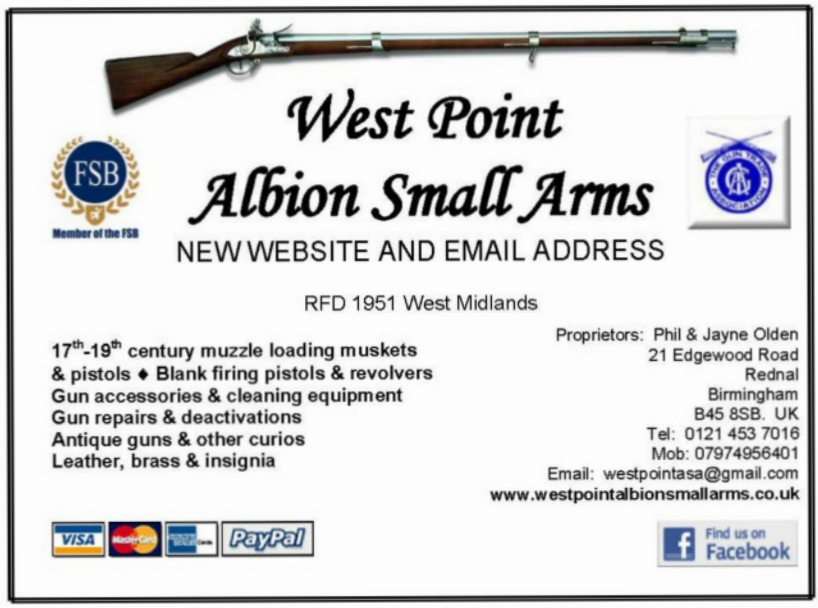
Driver wanted to transport Ordnance Trailer to and from events.

The Society will pay all fuel costs and if necessary, provide a tow bar.

The trailer will normally be required on site by the Thursday prior to the event.

For more information please contact:

Mike - 01832 734674



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Web Site: - http://www.acws.co.uk

Copy date for the Next Issue will be 31st Jan 2013 for the next issue

All advertisement & editorial copy should be sent by the above date

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EVENTS CALENDAR 2012

December 8th - ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

Confederate Training Weekend
13-14 April Tatton Old Hall
Confirmed

11-12 May Marbury Merrydays
Marbury Cheshire
Confirmed

15-16 June Crieff, Scotland
Confirmed

6-7 July Tatton Old Hall
Confirmed

27-28 July Hull Veterans Day
Provisional

17-18 August Scottish Festival of History
Hamilton Scotland.
Provisional

17-18 August Spetchly Park
Worcester Re enactors
Provisional

14-15 Sept Ingleton
North Yorks
Provisional