



The Palmetto Vindicator

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JULY 2003

Field Orders ~ Tom Grazioli, Colonel

Have you ever been in a battle scenario and had everything just go to Hell? Nobody's where they should be. Companies are slow to advance, go too far, or fire early. Some fool rides up on a horse and tells you the general wants you to get your battalion back across the Sunken Road. "Sir, can't you convince the general that since I've formed a battle line on their right flank, we can sweep away their attack like filth on the doorstep?" His reply is, "Double quick by the right flank and rejoin Colonel Cluster's left!"

Of course it's happened to you. And probably within the last event or two. But you'll be relieved to know that complete and utter confusion was historically accurate more often than you might have thought. And even though it usually had / has dire results, sometimes that's not the case.

Late in November of 1863 the Federal forces under Grant had 5 corps positioned in and around Chattanooga. Confederate General Braxton Bragg had established a strong line of defense east of the city from Tunnel Hill down along Missionary Ridge. As Sherman and his Army of the Tennessee were crossing the Tennessee river northeast of the city, elements of the Army Of The Cumberland, under the command of General George H. Thomas, were directed to advance on the rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge. Their orders were to take the first line, regroup and wait until Sherman got into position on the left and Hooker formed on the right. After successfully pushing to the base of the ridge, the Federal troops found themselves in a bad way with heavy fire from Confederate infantry and artillery raining down upon them from the second line halfway up and the third line at the top of the ridge. This is the part I like. Without any evidence of command to do so, several brigades thought it was better to press on to the top rather than stand around just to be shot up.

Grant must have been furious at the time. His plan was to have a three part attack with the signal being 6 cannon shots. He's reported to have asked General Thomas: "Who ordered those men up the hill?" Without an answer he said: "Someone will suffer for it, if it turns out badly."

As we participated in the recreations of these battles, there were occasions when we got all dressed up and had nowhere to go. Or, when we got to where we were going, there was no clear understanding about what to do next. At the Sharpsburg '02 event as we went into The Cornfield, we weren't 10 paces in when I had no idea where the colonel, general, or anyone else with more than 3 bars on their collar got to. I had good men in

B Company, they stayed together and kept the line straight. There were two good companies beside us, keeping step through the stalks. We marched all the way through that field and found a small battery of cannons covering the left flank of a long line of artillery. We took those guns easily and would surely have caused the others to give pause. We did what seemed to be the best course of action – we attacked. Everyone in our hobby can tell you a story (or two) about how things got all screwed up. And they usually don't turn out as well as they did for us in The Cornfield. Remind me sometime to tell you about the same battle 5 years earlier!

The Federals at Missionary Ridge thought it was better to charge to the top instead of being shot up below. As fate would have it, the third line of defense was made at the top of the ridge in such a way that it allowed ample cover for the enemy as they moved up through the second line. When the Federals went over the top, they were able to drive off the defenders and take possession of a large number of cannons and many supplies. On the Federal left, Confederate General P. R. Cleburn held Sherman in check while the rest of Hardee's corps covered the rear. The southern army withdrew towards Dalton, Georgia. As well as pushing the Confederates away from Chattanooga, the action also resulted in the near capture of General Bragg and several other high-ranking officers. I don't guess anyone "suffered" Grant's wrath for jumping the gun, or in this case – cannon.

The lack of communication and chaos created thereby was just as much a part of real history as it is in the way we portray it today. General Confusion and Colonel Cluster served in both armies just as they do now. And I'm sure, with no doubt, that Pvt. W. Nilly was ever present on every battlefield. So the next time everything appears to go to Hell in a hand basket, think of it as an authentic experience.

At Your Service,

Tom

P.S. We'll be exercising our maneuvers this fall to minimize the influence of Confusion, Cluster, and Nilly.



From the Lt. Colonel ~ Bruce Hoover

Greetings to all,
I hope this finds everyone enjoying their summer. Unfortunately, summer in South Carolina means that we have a lull in the reenacting season. I know that some had planned to go to Gettysburg, but since that has been cancelled, even that's not available for those needing a "fix"! The next event on the Battalion schedule is the Battle of Tunnel Hill, Ga, so I thought I would write a few words to encourage people who haven't been to give it a try.

It is a bit of a drive, but no worse than when we go to Resaca. I won't tell you it's the most authentic reenactment that you have ever attended, but I can promise you that the setting is very nice, and the people are very friendly. And for me, the history of the area, including the tunnel, is at least as much a reason to go as is the reenactment. So for those who are not familiar with the tunnel, and its history, let me tell you a bit about it.

The tunnel was built in the 1840s, and was apparently the first tunnel of its type anywhere in Dixie. It is nearly 1500 feet long, mostly through rock, and was on the main line from Atlanta to Chattanooga. Construction took nearly ten years, and it formed a crucial link in railway transportation in and out of the Deep South.

Several skirmishes were fought in the vicinity, and the destruction of the tunnel was one of the main goals of Andrews and his raiders in the "Great Locomotive Chase". By the time Andrews and his men reached the tunnel, however, the Texas was close behind them, so the tunnel was spared.

A small skirmish here in 1864 marked the start of the Atlanta Campaign, and the Clisby-Austin house (still present on the site of the reenactment) was used by W. T. Sherman as his headquarters during the Battle of Dalton. The house was also used as a hospital, and it's interesting to note that General J. B. Hood was sent there after his leg was amputated. The leg was sent with him (so that if he died, the leg could be buried with him) and legend says the leg is buried in the family cemetery near the house. The house is privately owned, but in past years it has been opened during the reenactment.

As for the tunnel, it was closed in the 1920s as being no longer safe, but about ten years ago a major grant from the Department of Transportation stabilized it, and it is once more open to the public. During the reenactment there will be volunteer guides there to explain the history as you walk through it, and I highly recommend the walk to everyone. Bids were taken last fall to build a visitors center/museum, and they said they were hoping to have it finished in time for this fall's reenactment, but I haven't heard any more about it since then. There is also an old railroad depot built from stones dug from the tunnel, and the site hopes to acquire that as well.

Hopefully this has piqued your interest in the event enough to come look for yourself. I know that I look forward to being back out there with all of you, and look forward to seeing you there!

Your Obedient Servant,

Bruce

Improving Your Impression ~ Resources

The SC Confederate Relic Room has on display a kepi worn by Private Daniel Morgan of Hart's Battery, a South Carolina horse artillery unit attached to Stuart's ANV cavalry corps. According to Relic Room Curator John Bigham, Private Morgan, of Orangeburg was killed in action on the Boynton Plank Road in Virginia on October 27, 1864., Miss Kate Morgan, of Springfield, SC, donated the kepi in 1925. If you own or have access to the Time-Life series "Echoes of Glory", you can see a photo of the cap in the Confederate volume's section on soldier headgear. The cap is mistakenly referred to as that of *Captain* Daniel Morgan -- he was in fact a private. This cap is the **only** one known to exist anywhere that is absolutely certain to have been worn by a South Carolina artilleryist. We can't be sure, but most believe the cap was produced at the Richmond clothing depot.

Neill Rose, David Chinnis, John Bigham and myself have been working with Mr. Greg Starbuck, the premier maker of reproduction Confederate headgear in the world, in order to produce a run of these caps. I'm happy to announce that the project is going very well. Most recently, we've located a British source for the imported English madder-red broadcloth for the cap's red trim. This was the last piece we needed to fall into place before production begins. The source has been in business in the UK since before the Battle of Waterloo. You can access their website if you're interested at: www.hainsworth.co.uk/abimelech/index1.html It is entirely possible that this maker produced the original cloth from which these caps were produced. We have every reason to expect these Starbuck-made kepi's will be perfect copies of the "Morgan" cap.

As you may know, there is a profound lack of authentic Confederate artillery caps for living historians. This is about to change! I wanted to reproduce this cap, not for personal profit, but to put as many into the hands of my fellow SC living historians as possible. In order to keep costs down, we've asked Mr. Starbuck to produce a "run"

versus individual orders. With that said, these caps won't be cheap, but I promise you they'll be worth every penny.

You can be sure that when you wear this cap, you'll be wearing a completely correct piece of headgear for a SC ANV artillery impression -- indeed the **ONLY** artillery kepi **known to have been worn** by a SC artilleryman. Even if you aren't a "cannon-popper", you still may want one of these caps for your collection of SC War Between the States items!

Estimated cost is around \$100.00, maybe a little more, maybe a little less. This is a unique opportunity to own a museum-quality replica of a cap you'll be proud to own and wear. I'll need your check at the time you place your order in order to guarantee each one is "pre-sold" prior to their making. I'll in turn, send Mr. Starbuck one money order to cover the entire project cost.

If you think you'll want one or have any questions, please contact me no later than Monday, July 28th. You can E-mail me at keith@bartsch.com, or call me at 334-395-5857

Cordially,

Keith Bartsch
Garden's Btty,
Palmetto Light Artillery

2568 Winchester Road
Montgomery AL 36106



The Apple Crate

Hey fellers,
It seems like it's been a long time since I've seen any of you!! I've had a couple of health issues to deal with, but that's over and done with now. I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Missionary Ridge/Tunnel Hill. Mmmm, Uhhhh. I'm sorry, but most times it's difficult for me to get excited about this from a Southern viewpoint. After all, just two short months before this, the original Southern 'Shock Troops,' Longstreet's Corps, and please excuse me here, Kershaw's Brigade in particular (bear in mind that in July, most of them had been in some of the thickest of the thick of it at Gettysburg) had been loaded up on flatbeds, cattle-cars and whatever conveyance could be pulled by a steam locomotive, hauled from northern Virginia to northern Georgia. They rode the rails morning, noon, and night to arrive late on the night of September 19th, 1863. Not much chance to rest.

They formed up early the next morning of the 20th. Were held in reserve briefly, and when it looked like a spot in the Federal line was there for the taking, sent into the thick of it again. Well, when they hit, they kept on hitting. Damnation, they ran the Federals for several miles before they finally stopped. (Go there. Walk the field if you want to. See for yourself.) Meanwhile fellow South Carolinians under Manigault (Breckinridge's Corps) moved relentlessly forward against, what even today looks like an almost impossible position, Snodgrass Hill, and blew away the resistance there. (Who among us isn't touched when we stand at the base of that piece of ground, look up that long slope and see the monument perched atop Snodgrass Hill, dedicated to Manigault's Brigade?) All of this was done by 2:30 in the afternoon of the 20th. Not a shabby day's work, considering the Southern attack/push was to begin at daylight, but didn't really get rolling until around mid-morning. Chickamauga is the background or backdrop (at least in my mind), leading up to Missionary Ridge and Tunnel Hill.

The questions that I often ask myself are, for the most part, simple, straightforward, and nearly always governed by the over-riding thought and belief that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". So my questions to all of you and to myself are these:

A) How can one Army, in the short period of 2 months go from being such an aggressive, offensive weapon, able to drive a numerically "superior" Army, firmly planted on the high ground, to itself becoming an Army that was then in turn driven from the field when they themselves held even at least as good ground, possibly even better, and were well-

entrenched no less?

B) Why, when an Army has at their disposal such an aggressive, offensive portion of that total weapon (Longstreet's Corps), would they be sent off to Knoxville a couple weeks earlier? Maybe the better question would be, why them, and not a lesser, somewhat less elite force?

Boys, Sometime, when we're sitting around the fire, I hope one of you can help me with both of these queries. And please, try not to trivialize it with a one-word answer: "Bragg."

OK. Enough of my ramblings. Just one more quick thing before I stop.

Most of you know the supreme reverence and deep spirit-felt respect I have for the Southern fighting man. I've tried in most of my articles to include some statement, giving testimony to that indomitable spirit of our kinfolk from '61-'65, and this will not be the exception. So many times,



I'm sure all of us all of a sudden remember or think of something we've read in years past, but can't remember exactly what it was or where we read it. Well some weeks back, when I was doing my annual haversack cleanout, I had a really quick brain flash and couldn't for the life of me remember all of the ins and outs of it!

While thumbing through some things for the Missionary Ridge and Tunnel Hill, voila! There it was!

Here is a statement, attributed to a Federal from Ohio, as he was walking what had been the Southern position on Missionary Ridge the day after the battle, coming upon the body of a young Southern soldier, "...He was not over fifteen years of age, and very slender in size. He was clothed in a cotton suit, and was barefooted; barefooted, in that cold and wet...November. I examined his haversack. For a day's ration there was a handful of black beans, a few pieces of sorghum, and a half dozen roasted acorns. That was an infinitely poor outfit for marching and fighting, but that Tennessee Confederate had made it answer his purpose..."¹

Not much more any of us can add to that kind of tribute and honor paid to our Southern soldiers than that given by his opposition, the invaders of his homeland.

I remain respectfully...

Sgt. Maj. Wm. R. (Rick) Davis

¹From Shelby Foote's "The Civil War-A Narrative" Volume 8

Palmetto Soldiers Relief Society to Hold Swap Shop

PSRS will be holding another swap shop at elections this Sept 20 (if we don't get "blown away" again!!!). If you wish to sell something may bring it that morning. Have in mind a price that you would like to get for the item then add 10% to it for the PSRS commission. Also, bring money to rack up on some bargains! Please ask be sure to pick up your unsold items or money before you leave for the day.

Missionary Ridge, November 25, 1864**Described by Brigadier General Manigault**

Missionary Ridge is suitably bequeathed a mental picture by Gen'l M in **A Carolinian Goes to War, The Civil War Narrative of Arthur Middleton Manigault, Brigadier General, C. S. A.**, p. 141-142. Gen'l M describes his view of the action from atop the ridge at its 400 foot elevation down to the backside of the ridge at, I suppose, 0 feet.

"I was endeavoring to have one of the guns, which had become jammed between two trees, extricated, when Captain [Staunton H., commanding an Alabama battery] Dent called to me, "Leave the gun, General, and save yourself! The Yankees are on you!" Looking to the front, I saw them within fifty yards, pouring over the breastwork. Seventy or eighty men, including some artillerists, were scattered around me, some firing. I directed them to retire at once, and calling to Lieutenant Jannison [George A. Jennison, 24th Alabama Inf.], Acting Inspector General, told him we must now ride for it. Many of those around me were shot down and the bullets whistled around me like a swarm of bees. I thought my chance of escape doubtful in the extreme, but determined not to be taken if I could possibly help it, and to run every risk to secure my safety. So putting spurs to our horses, and separating from each other, we dashed down the rough and rugged slope at nearly full speed, and at imminent risk of our necks, the balls pattering against the trees and rocks around me like hailstones. Riding as I was, straight from the enemy, I felt certain that I could not do so long

without being hit by the many balls fired at me, and although I increased the distance I had to traverse more than one-half, I rendered their aim less certain and thought my chances better by changing my course. I therefore turned slanting to the left, and had the satisfaction, after a ride of 300 or 400 yards, of placing an intervening ridge between myself and bloodthirsty foes. Here I was rejoined by Lieutenant Jannison, who had also escaped. We literally ran the gauntlet, and as we were the conspicuous target for their fire, and several thousand shots must have been directed at us, it was only God's mercy that we escaped. Our horses were also unhurt. Had they been killed, a like fate would in all probability have befallen us, or at least a long and wearisome captivity. Of those who were around me when I started in this race, only a few escaped. We saved two of our guns, the other two fell a prize to the conqueror."

Manigault blamed Braxton Bragg for the defeat adding that, "Our defeat may also in a great measure be attributed to the error committed in the location of our defensive line on the crest of the ridge."

Are the Yankees on you? Pouring over your breastworks? Are you an Army of Tennessee Rebel still mad at Bragg, Hood, Davis, politics, et al? Well, get over it! Come on in the Confederate Relic Room and ponder the South midst the true relics of olde. Many thanks for all that you, the Palmetto Battalion, do for the Confederate Relic Room.

John

SC Dept. of Archives

Patrick McCawley, Reference Archivist
Patrick@scdah.sc.state.us

On September 26 & 27, 2003, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Museum will host the Sixth Annual Symposium on South Carolina Civil War History. I invite all to attend. The Symposium was started by Mac Wyckoff in 1998 to bring together those interested in this tragic, but pivotal period in our state and national history. The growth of the Symposium led Mac, Jim Clary, Dee Stone and others involved in the organization of this event to invite the State Archives and Confederate Relic Room to become permanent hosts. Both agencies gladly accepted, but because of the budget cuts both agencies have suffered over the last three years, it is important that this year's event be successful to ensure their continued participation. Keeping with past traditions, the program offers a diverse group of speakers and topics that I hope will interest many of you in attending the Symposium.

The Symposium opens on Friday evening, September 26, with a reception at the Confederate Relic Room. This will allow speakers and participants to meet and discuss their favorite historical topics among the fantastic displays of the museum. For those that have not been to the Relic Room's new location, this would be an opportune time. Saturday's events will take place at the Archives and History Center on Parklane Road.

Sessions will focus on uniforms and equipment, weapons

making, music, Robert Smalls, Gist's brigade, the 1st SC Infantry Regiment (Union), the repercussions of the Atlanta campaign, and contrasts between Hampton's and Wheeler's Cavalry. Our speakers range from locals historians such as Neill Rose, Joe Long, and Dr. Jack Meyers to nationally recognized experts like Jim Ogden of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and Gordon Jones of the Atlanta Historical Center. We are especially pleased to have Dr. Andrew Billingsley, a visiting professor at the University of South Carolina. On Saturday, Mike Wadsworth of 1st Corps Books will have an ample array of Civil War books for those that have not already filled every spare space in their house.

The highlight of the Symposium will be the evening banquet. Harry Pecorelli, an underwater archeologist with the Hunley Commission will be our speaker. Harry was the diver that first uncovered the Hunley in May 1995, while working with Clive Cussler. He will regale participants with stories and slides as they enjoy some good Southern barbecue and chicken. I hope many of you will be able to join us for two days of interesting topics and historical enlightenment. If you have questions, please contact me at 803-896-6203 or email me at patrick@scdah.state.sc.us. For a full program visit www.state.sc.us/scdah/sccivilwar03.htm

From the Adjutant's Pen

David Chinnis
adjutant@palmettobattalion.org

Folks,

It's that time again for me to gently remind everyone, DUES SHOULD BE PAID BY JULY 1st!! I'm certain that many of you have already forwarded your dues to the appropriate person in your unit and that others are writing the check as they read this. To the others GET BUSY! It is critical that your current mailing address along with your email address (if applicable) be included along with your dues payment. If either address is incorrect we'll have problems. I'll assure you that no addresses will be provided to anyone without your permission unless it is official Battalion business and that email addresses are NEVER provided to anyone outside the staff of the Battalion by me.

If I have not received dues/addresses by August 15, 2003 you will not receive a September Vindicator or have access to the members only site on the web. As much as I hate to pester folks about this (well, not really!), keeping the Battalion rosters organized and confirmed by elections each year is a major task that requires quite a bit of time. For those adjutants of individual units, multiply the membership by whatever number is necessary to get a result about 450 and you can understand the difficulty. We all have real jobs that take varying amounts of our time and we are all dedicated to making sure that you get the benefits you're entitled too as a Battalion member.

Speaking of benefits, if you are reading this Vindicator over someone's shoulder or if you have a copy forwarded by someone else, please let me know! Every other month I get several

questions or comments like: "Where is my Vindicator?" or "I have received a Vindicator in several months." or even "What is the password to get into the electronic site?". Great questions all, but if you wait four months to ask them, you'll miss some excellent work done every other month in this fine publication! Email me at adjutant@palmettobattalion.org or call me at 843-851-2616 and leave a message. If I don't know there is a problem, I can't get it fixed and fixing the problem is what I want to do. In that regard, if you move or the Post Office changes your address remember to send a Change of Address card to the return address listed on the Vindicator, I get at least two Vindicators back each month with a Return to Sender label on them. Just in case my address is Adjutant, 103 Inwood Place, Summerville, SC 29485. If you're having problems electronically make certain that you're entering the username and password EXACTLY like they were sent to you!!

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Using Research to Improve Your Impression ~ Principles & Jargon

A Guest Column by Curt Heinrich-Schmidt

Learning about research, or how to research, is a lot like learning anything else. There are a few basics, some “jargon” and “buzz words” people use, some methods and procedures, and some big controversies they fight over. (One in particular lies with academicians who argue whether historical research is valid due to the interpretative nature of research projects and whether “history” can actually be tested by the Scientific Method.)

There are two realms of research. The first is the realm of theory. That is what goes on inside our heads as researchers. It is where we keep our theories about what the WTBS era was actually like. The second is the realm of observations. It is the real world into which we translate our ideas, discoveries, findings, measurements, and observations. It is also what translates into our impressions. When we “do research,” we are continually jumping back and forth between the two realms; between what we think was true about the Civil War era, and what had actually happened or existed in it.

Research tends to be either “theoretical” or “empirical.” Theoretical research and deals with developing, exploring or testing the theories or ideas that clinical or social researchers have about how the world operates. The type of research we, as reenactors, living historians, and historians tend to do is empirical; it deals with observations and measurements of the reality of life in the Past. Sometimes though, our research can be a blending of these two, as we compare our theories about how the life during the Civil War “was,” and our observations or “discoveries” of how it actually was.

Of the basic types of questions that research projects can address, most of our research tends to be *descriptive*. It tries to describe what was going on or what existed during the Civil War. This can apply to the basic areas that go into an impression, or make up a persona: the material culture, the mental and physical man, and the world and activities around him.

Research usually, but not always, begins with an *hypothesis* which is a specific statement of prediction. For our Civil War purposes, that is instead usually a *question*.

Research, as in logic, usually works from two broad methods of reasoning: either *deductive* or *inductive* approaches. Deductive reasoning is done from the more general to the more specific. Inductive reasoning works the other way, moving from specific observations to broader generalizations and theories.

Inductive reasoning, by its nature, is more exploratory, especially at the beginning. Deductive reasoning is more narrow and is concerned with testing or confirming hypotheses. Most of our Civil War research is inductive, meaning we have questions about the physical nature of an article or clothing or item or gear; or the way or manner in which something was done, etc. Often times, in our research we use both methods. For example, we explore original jackets for raw materials; methods of production; patterns, styles, and sizes; and markings. Then we take that information and look to apply to how and when and under what circumstances were these jackets

issued so we can transfer that to our individual impressions/personae for specific units at specific times and at specific places. Together, we use both in a methodology that continually cycles and recycles from theories, down to observations, and back up again to theories.

To borrow from the world of statistics, when we *research* is that we examine artifacts and primary sources to *measure* our theories, to confirm or deny our observations, or to test whether the inferences and applications made from our discoveries or observations are *reliable and valid*. Statistical formulae exist in clinical and social research for computing how large a sample has to be to “reliable and valid.” In “Civil War” related research these formulae rarely apply, but the principles still do. Meaning, for example, the rate (fraction, proportion, or percent) at which something is found to occur is a more valid measurement than a simple numerical count of occurrences.

An observation or finding is a “valid” measure of something if it is relative or appropriate as representative of that property. “Reliability” only says that the result or observation is repeatable. In plainer terms, take jaguar skin trousers. Based upon a surviving period photograph, we know of them being worn (under one set of circumstances, at one time, and at one place). A *sample* of one IS valid if our theory is that jaguar skins were worn during the Civil War. It IS NOT *valid* if the theory is that all Confederate soldiers wore jaguar skin trousers. It is not reliable, in that the incidences of documented jaguar skin trousers are not repeatable.

Taking that question or theory further, may lead to further research and investigation, etc., etc. And, once having “documented” (proving or disproving the question or theory), that becomes a “hinge point” around which our collective Civil War knowledge rests- until additional research and documentation comes to light that forces us to reevaluate and reexamine our beliefs about life in the Civil War past.

NEXT: PART 3: Accessing archives and collections

Confederate Order of Battle

South Carolina Units in The Chattanooga Campaign
[www.civilwarhome.com/chattanoogaorderofbattle\(confed\).htm](http://www.civilwarhome.com/chattanoogaorderofbattle(confed).htm)

Army of Tennessee,

General Braxton Bragg, Commanding Longstreet's Army Corps.

McLaws' Division, Kershaw's Brigade.

2d South Carolina, Col. John D. Kennedy.

3d South Carolina, Col. James D. Nance.

7th South Carolina, Col. D. Wyatt Aiken.

8th South Carolina, Col. John W. Henagan.

15th South Carolina, Col. Joseph F. Gist.

3d South Carolina Battalion,

Lieut. Col. William G. Rice.

On November 17th and 18th, Longstreet called upon his trusted Carolinians to open the road to Knoxville. The successful mission was largely accomplished by the 2nd and 3rd South Carolina, but with heavy losses in the 3rd. Colonel John Doby Kennedy was seriously wounded, Major William M. Gist of the 15th was killed, and Colonel William G. Rice of the 3rd Battalion was so severely wounded that he did not return. On the night of December 4th, Longstreet gave up on his siege of Knoxville and headed northeast. Ten days later, Longstreet resumed his offensive with a surprise attack at Bean Station in which he brigade saw only limited fighting. Kershaw was elevated to division command to replace General McLaws who had been court-martialed for Fort Sanders. Colonel Kennedy of the 2nd, Colonel James Drayton Nance of the 3rd held the same rank with equal seniority and alternated in command of the brigade.

www.ehistory.com/uscw/features/regimental/south_carolina/confederate/KershawsBrigade/kb.cfm

Hood's Division, Jenkins' Brigade.

1st South Carolina,

Col. Franklin W. Kilpatrick.

2d South Carolina Rifles,

Col. Thomas Thomson.

5th South Carolina, Col. A. Coward.

6th South Carolina, Col. John Bratton.

Hampton (South Carolina) Legion,

Col. Martin W. Gary.

Palmetto (South Carolina) Sharpshooters,

Col. Joseph Walker.

Artillery Batt., Col. E. Porter Alexander.

South Carolina Battery,

Capt. William W. Fickling.

Hardee's Corps.

Walker's Division, Gist's Brigade.

16th South Carolina, Col. James McCullough.

24th South Carolina, Col. Clement H. Stevens.

Hindman's Division, Manigault's Brigade.

10th and 19th South Carolina,

Maj. James L. White.

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AUGUST 16-SEPTEMBER 22, 1863.--The

Chickamauga Campaign. No. 365.--Report of Col. James F. Pressley, Nineteenth South Carolina Infantry, commanding Tenth and Nineteenth South Carolina Infantry.

HDQRS. Tenth And Nineteenth S.C. Vols., Missionary Ridge, Tenn., October 5, 1863.

CAPTAIN : I have the honor to report the part taken by this command in the late battle of Chickamauga.

On September 18, we were first formed in line of battle on the right bank of Chickamauga Creek, a little above Lee and Gordon's Mills, and having three companies in front as skirmishers our line did not become engaged, but was at times submitted to severe shelling from the enemy's batteries on the opposite side of the creek, from which we lost 2 men killed and 5 wounded. We held our position till the afternoon of the 19th, when, together with the remainder of our division, we were moved to the right some 2 miles, crossing Chickamauga Creek at Hunt's Ford, moving forward and taking position in the front line of the army for the night.

On the morning of the 20th, our division was transferred to the command of Lieutenant-General Longstreet, and we were placed in the Left Wing of the army. At 11 o'clock we were ordered to move against the enemy. Moving forward some three-quarters of a mile, we encountered his line strongly posted, partly behind breastworks of logs and dirt and partly behind the crest of a hill. We advanced up to within about 60 or 70 yards, when the engagement between us became general and exceedingly hotly contested. Our brigade being, unfortunately, not supported on the left, and the enemy's line overlapping us, the three left regiments were necessarily either forced to retire or move by the right flank for protection under some woods on their right. This entirely exposed my left, the enemy at the same time opening from that direction a most terrific enfilade fire upon us with both musketry and artillery, from the effects of which my command was suffering intensely. Notwithstanding this, the men fought with great desperation, and the left of my command, principally the Nineteenth Regiment, succeeded in pushing forward, driving the enemy from three pieces of his artillery and passing some distance beyond the captured guns. My position at this time became a critical one, being comparatively isolated, and, after having had some of my best officers disabled and many a noble soldier killed or wounded, we were forced to retire.

Just at this juncture Brigadier-General Anderson's brigade came to our relief, a part of one of his regiments passing through my

ranks as we were falling back, which, together with the terrible fire to which we were exposed, divided my command. In a very few minutes I succeeded in rallying a portion of my regiments, amounting to a fair representation from each, and immediately followed after the gallant Mississippians who were driving the already severely punished Abolitionists before them.

Owing to the forced retirement of the left of our brigade, I was at this time alone, but finding Major-General Hindman, he ordered me to report temporarily to Brigadier-General Deas, who was then reforming his brigade. I moved on his left for some two hours, till I again met my own brigade. We were then moved forward to attempt to dislodge the enemy from a strong position occupied by its center on very high hills near the Rossville road. His position here was well chosen, and his troops were encouraged by having repelled one attack of our troops against him. We moved upon this position about 3:30 o'clock and were several times repulsed, but not discouraged; we would as often advance upon the enemy's stronghold. Here the last struggle was made by our adversaries, and they brought up line after line of their reserve troops and threw them against us. But by the determination of our brave-soldiers and the firm resolve which seemed to pervade almost every breast that we would conquer or die, we succeeded about sunset in completely routing them and assisted in gaining for our artillery a signal victory. This ended the fighting in the battle.

The two regiments which I have the honor to command did their duty nobly, and where so many did their whole duty, it would be invidious in me to make distinctions. Of course, as is probably the case in all bodies of men, there were individuals who failed to act their part in the great struggle, but of those it would be out of place to particularize in this report. I am particularly indebted to and most cheerfully award the meed of praise to Lieut. Col. Julius T. Percher, Maj. J. L. White, and Adj. J. O. Ferrell for valuable and efficient service rendered throughout the entire battle. Our losses were heavy. We buried upon the battlefield 1 commissioned officer and 25 enlisted men, our wounded are 5 commissioned officers and 205 enlisted men. Total loss 236. A number of our wounds were mortal, and the list of dead that we have already heard of reaches over 40. I am, captain, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
 J. F. Pressley,
 Colonel, Commanding.
 Capt. C. I. Walker
 Asst. Adj. General Manigault's Brigade.

Taking the Initiative to be a Great NCO ~ Jim Butler, Salt River Rifles

Okay, you've read Kautz and you know all the drill manuals and that may make you a good NCO. But, what does it take to be a GREAT NCO? Initiative, motivation and leadership will help you. Read these guidelines and I think you're experience as an NCO will be more rewarding to you and more rewarding to your whole company or squad! They are written to the attention of the Sergeants, but corporals will also read what they are expected to know and do. Sergeants should utilize their 2nd Sgt to delegate some or half of these duties listed below. But, the 1st Sgt is ultimately responsible to the CO.

Rise: Know what time the CO wants the company up and when he wants his reports. Go over this with him the day before. All meetings with the CO should be held privately or with other NCOs only at your discretion. Use his time as your gauge on company duties. You need to be the first man up! I suggest getting up at Musicians Call (if one is blown).

Roll: Have all your men fall in (unless in the hospital) for roll call. You should try to have the men on-line by the last note of reveille. The men need to fall in with their coats (all buttons buttoned) and hats on and any other gear you order them to take. Have a corporal supply light if you need it. Be quick and take role. Have a total ready of present and of those that are not and why they are not for the CO. You and your corporals should request that they be quiet in the ranks. You should actually take roll three times a day: at Revielle, at Retreat and Tatoon. A bugler helps and so does knowing the basic calls.

Medical: Ask for any and record any medical conditions of the men (do this during first roll call or during check-in). Record what condition they have and any medications they take in your book. Watch out for the condition of your men (hydration, feet, hypothermia, sun stroke, poison ivy, insect bite, etc).

Counting Off: This is one of my pet peeves. It bugs me when the 1st Sgt doesn't take the initiative to have his company counted off and aligned BEFORE the CO has to ask you. Don't let the men shout their number if the enemy

is near (Outpost duty, battlefield, etc).

Paperwork: You will be asked by the CO to fill out certain forms. Please be sure you know at least the basics on how to fill it out. Ask your CO if you have any questions. Have reports turned in as the CO commands and on time. Also, it is critical that you carry a notebook and record the following in it:

- Full roster with Roll calls marked.
- Medical conditions and medications.
- Guard Mount men and shifts.
- Men with damaged or dirty muskets.
- Ammunitions stores.
- Details and cpls assigned list.
- Anything else pertinent to you.

Drill: As stated above, I am assuming you know the drill (whatever your unit uses). This should include Manual of Arms, School of the Soldier, School of the Company, skirmish drill and guidelines for Picket and Guards. You should also know your position and placements as well as your corporals. NO ECHOING COMMANDS! Give correction in low under tones to those in your stead. The 1st Sgt should really conduct at least some of the drill instruction.

Inspections: Don't make your CO have to make your company ready for inspection. This is a critical step in your role as an NCO. First know how to inspect a weapon. If you don't, get some instruction now or from your CO prior to the event. Be sure not to yank the trigger to check a safety (half cock). This can break or damage the sear spring. Hang the rifle on your thumb. The safety should be able to support its own weight. You and your corporals should be sure no one is putting their finger on the trigger until the command 'AIM'. Also, the men's safeties should be on safety (half cock) at all times until the command 'AIM' or he is priming the weapon. You need to also check the men's canteens for water, rounds, tins, and bayonet tips. Men with unclean or damaged rifles should be put on a report for the CO.

Corporals: Have your corporals duties set up as soon as possible. Spread the duties out over all the corporals. Assign each corporal a number and show him his position in your line. Remember that corporals watch over the details, but also help in equal share of the labors. Each corporal manages ¼ of the company (in a

reenacting company, typically) and their assigned duties.

Duties: Here is a list of basic duties. Circumstances, location, setting can all influence other duties at your discretion. Duties should have the main goal of watching over the welfare of the men. The CO will likely tell you what duties he expects. Take initiative and don't have the CO have to tell you again.

- Water detail: You should expect your corporals to have all the men's canteens full at inspection. Also, they should inquire with their men often as to their hydration status and the level of water they have left in their canteens.
- Wood detail: You should expect the corporals of this detail to have gathered enough fire wood for the circumstance and size of the company (i.e. more wood if it is cold, etc). If it is very wet out, look for a fallen, pine tree and cut out a piece of its fat lighter from its center. This will aid in getting a fire started when it is damp out.
- Fire detail: You should expect your corporals of this duty to have built and started on fire for every 4-6 men. Less if in summer.
- Mess detail: Pick the great cooks for this detail. These men will perform preparation of the food and cooking of the food (unless a commissary sgt is dedicated to the task). The mess detail should also act as the ration detail as well. This means that they go to Ration Call and collect rations for their entire company.
- Shelter detail: This should be the Cpls first duty when the company stops for camp if the weather is inclement. The corporals should be expected to find appropriate ground within their area and gather any materials to build a shelter large enough for their men. Have more corporals work on this immediately if the weather is very bad.
- Sapper/Eng. Detail: If you are in trenches and they need to be improved for sleeping, warmth, etc, you should expect that your corporals will have improved them sufficiently with his

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8) *Taking the Initiative* . . . detail. Your CO, you and the company should request that people bring digging tools if needed (set up prior to the event).

- **Guard detail:** Your battalion staff officers may ask you for a detail for guard mount. Please then contact your CO immediately (unless he is not there). Comply with all battalion staff officers of your battalion. (See 'Guard Mount' below). Guards do not take orders from officers at that are not part of Guard Mount officers.

Dealing with your CO: Almost all dealings with your CO should be held privately. A good officer won't ball you out in front of the men, but he could do it in private! You are the mother of the company and the CO needs to trust that you will do these things without being micromanaged. In many cases, the 1st Sgt is the messmate of the CO and this works in campaign settings well. Also, you are the link from the enlisted men to the officers. If the CO must leave the companies vicinity, then you are in charge of the company and need to follow any special instructions left by the CO. The CO should never take part in the labor of a detail unless it is urgent he do so.

Guard Mount: If you are on Guard Mount or Outpost you will work a 6-hour shift on and 6 hours in reserve. You and the CO are to stay awake this entire 6 hour shift. You both work together and stay together unless the Sgt. Of the Guard is called to a post or the CO commands it. You watch out for each other's welfare for this period and should report happenings from your posts as they come in from the corporal of the guard. Know how the guard is to be deployed and their posts. Keep written records of their positions and names and shifts (use a Guard Mount form if you can get one or make one). You should expect your corporal of the guard to be sure his men know their passwords and special orders of their posts. You should expect they run and the report back on each call from a post. Please note them in your Guard Mount. If you have time, make a sketch of the terrain of the area and the enemies' posts. Send this report to the Officer of the Guard. Make sure your posts are kept to

no fires or very small fires per post. Know the difference between a Police Guard and a Picket or Outpost Guard.

Weapon smith: You need to have a set of cleaning tools with you at all times. You should have the proper tools for Enfields and Springfields. Have a couple of nipple picks at the ready for a fouled rifle. You should assign a corporal to instruct and who need it is the art of musket cleaning if required.

In Battle: NCOs should not only know their place in line, but also know where everyone else in their stead should be as well! Watching out for safety infractions is your first priority. Watch your men's footings during loading and firing. Give appropriate correction as needed in low tones. **DO NOT ECHO COMMANDS!** You all know this. Look out for any signs of dehydration or fatigue in your men. You should already have done the 'Medical' step above. Ask your CO who, if any, officers on staff are actually, medically trained (not just a reenactor). **KNOW** your units Safety Regulations and enforce them.

Skirmishing: You should make yourself the central guide for the line. The CO

will be several paces behind the line or 80-120 paces behind the line if he has a bugler and he line of sight to most of his men. Thus, it helps to know the basic bugle calls. Please only correct when you need to and in the lowest tones possible. Your main goal is to keep alignment of the skirmish line and also keep men from rushing too far out of line to play 'Cowboys and Indians'. Obviously, you need to know the drill basics of skirmishing as well.

Does this seem like a lot to do? Well, you're right...it is! So, don't let anyone tell you that the 1st Sgt is not the Mother Hen of his company! Have fun and do your company proud as one of their NCOs.

(Key - CO: Company Officer, NCO: Non-Commissioned Officer, Sgt: Sergeant, Cpl: Corporal)

Palmetto Battalion 2003 Calendar and Event Schedule

Battalion Affiliated Events are marked. If your event is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify:

vindicator@palmettobattalion.org

Sep 5-7

Tunnel Hill (BA) - Dalton, GA

Sep 20

Battalion Elections 11:00 am, Saturday

Sesquicentennial SP, Columbia, SC

Sept 26-27

SC Civil War Symposium, SC Relic Room, Columbia, SC

Oct 4-5

Battle of Perryville - Perryville, KY

Oct 11

Ghostwalk - Charleston, SC

Oct 17-19

Blue Springs - Mosheim, TN

Oct 24-26

Brattonsville (BA) - Brattonsville, SC

Oct 24-26

Murfreesboro/Stones River - Spring Hill, TN (NSA)

Oct 31-Nov 2

Richland Creek - Saluda, SC

Nov 15-16

Battle of Secessionville (BA)

Mount Pleasant, SC

Dec 6-8

Buck Head Church, Millen, GA

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Relic Room Wins Grant to Fund Lecture Series

The Confederate Relic Room and Museum has been awarded a grant by the South Carolina Humanities Council to help sponsor a lecture series. The grant will allow the museum to bring a variety of scholars to Columbia this year for free talks about South Carolina's rich past. "This grant will allow us to offer a fascinating series of talks that will help people put into context the displays they see at the museum," said director Allen Roberson. The grant allows local organizations to host scholars from South Carolina institutions who are experts on the history or culture of the Palmetto State.

All lectures will be at the Confederate Relic Room, 301 Gervais Street, in the Columbia Mills Building which also houses the State Museum. The lecture schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, July 23, noon: John M. Sherrer, III, Director of Collections and Interpretation for Historic Columbia Foundation will give a visual presentation of what life in Columbia was like during the Civil War with a spotlight on Columbia's historic homes of the time.

Saturday, September 13, 2 p.m.: Carl Borick, Assistant Director of the Charleston Museum, in speaking on South Carolina's role in the American Revolution. He will give a lecture and visual presentation with an emphasis on the war in the Backcountry of South Carolina.

Saturday, November 8, 2 p.m.: Bill Koon, Professor of English at Clemson University will speak on the Apocalyptic

View in Southern Fiction. The South seems to have a keen sense of an approaching apocalypse. Is this the result of its religiosity or of the devastation of the Civil War?

Reprinted from the June 2003 newsletter for employees of the South Carolina Budget and Control Board

**Battalion Dues for
2003/2004 are now
due!
Please make certain
to get them to your
unit reps!**