

THE PALMETTO VINDICATOR

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PALMETTO BATTALION

Field Orders

Keith Powell
Colonel

Hello to everyone!

The year is about over. It has been an interesting one with a mixture of good and bad. And we have recently lost a couple of members. So it is time to reflect a little.

First, those of us who went to Perryville have just returned. I was pleasantly surprised in that almost all of the numbers that registered actually attended. The weather was as close to perfect as one could ask for. We did not allow for Tom to discuss the weather in case the weather curse still has a hold on him. We had a great camp site, the battle was good on Saturday. The battle Sunday was ok. We got to do a lot of drill on Saturday morning.

Sunday morning we had morning parade and Chaplin Short gave us a fine sermon. The folks from the battalion that formed with us (Smith's Battalion) turned out to be a good group of fellows and we got along fine together. So to those that did not attend you missed an excellent event.

The next event we attend as a whole group will be Secessionville. To those of you that do things in the meantime, I hope that they turn out well and you have a great time there. We will see you in Charleston.

I would like to take the time to thank my staff. They did a great job for me and the battalion as a whole over the course of the year. With everyone's help we actually got rosters and monies turned in on time. We will make sure to remind everyone next year to continue this good work.

One goal for next year will be to fine tune our unit reps and communication structure. With this modern day of internet we need to set up a net work where the battalion staff can send messages out to the various regiments. As a request to the regiments, I do ask that you appoint someone in your unit that is on the internet on a regular basis as a contact person. For example, I have to check my email every day for work. I would think that every unit has a person

in the same position. Please consider getting a contact unit rep person that is online regularly so that we can send messages to your unit rep and have that person then pass the info out to the unit members. That is the only way I know of to send information quickly out to the battalion.

I look forward to being Colonel for the coming year and will continue to work on things that need improvement. And as someone brought up at elections, let's try to have fun. We need to work on things but we need to keep things in perspective too.

Also, please take the Vindicator on line if at all possible. This will provide a substantial dollar savings for the battalion. Which monies can be used for something more worthwhile than postage. You need to give the Adjutant your email address. Please take this point seriously and follow up and do this if you have the computer, etc.

To the ones we have lost, we say good bye and that we miss you. It is a sad part of life that it has to end, even if we expect and hope to go to a better world. And it is an even



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- Articles by Patrick McCawley, of the S.C. Archives
- When Honor was Everything: A Look at Dueling in South Carolina

From The Dog Tent

Claude Sinclair
Sgt. Major

Reflections

Serving as your Sergeant Major the past two years have been the most difficult, most learning, and most enjoyable time I have spent with the Palmetto Battalion. My goal during this time was to improve the battalion. Did I succeed? Only you can answer that.

I found that to be a good Sgt. Major or staff member is that you have to listen to the membership. Why? Because it is the membership that makes up the Palmetto Battalion and without you the Palmetto Battalion would not exist. I have found that doing nothing does not improve things. In many cases doing nothing gives some people a platform to complain. I also found that by doing something to improve the battalion that you will generally make 10 people happy and anger 1.

So do you listen to the person you have angered? I have found in life and in my position as a Social Worker, you do listen. So that is where my two by-law proposals come into play. While most people have agreed to them, it has upset some. So I have taken the suggestions of those it would affect the most and have changed them somewhat so that they are something that we all can work with. Following are the two proposals:

First Proposal

Prior to qualifying to become a new Palmetto Battalion Company you must petition the Colonel of the Palmetto Battalion to make your intent known. To obtain new company status for the Infantry in the Palmetto Battalion you must have in attendance 20 rifles (men in the ranks and on the field), not including the company officers for a minimal of 5 Battalion Affiliated events or 4 Battalion Affiliated events and one "Other" event. "Other" event as being defined an event that can be used for voting purposes from the reenactment year from July the 1st through June the 30th. Company officers are defined as Captain and Lieutenant.

Rifles are those who have paid Battalion dues. During the year of obtaining your eligibility you may be assigned to another Palmetto Battalion Company at the discretion of the Colonel. Once these guidelines have been met, the Palmetto Battalion membership will vote to allow

or disallow Company status. If approved by the general membership the Colonel will assign the new company a letter. There will never be more than ten companies in the Palmetto Battalion.

Second Proposal

To remain an Infantry company in the Palmetto Battalion you must put on the field a minimal of 16 rifles for three affiliated events or two affiliated events and one "Other" event for a period from July the 1st to June 30th of the reenacting year. Affiliated and "Other" events are defined as those events that have been voted on and approved by the Palmetto Battalion membership for voting purposes.

Rifles are defined as men in the ranks and on the field with muskets not including the Company officers as shown in the total column of the form one (1). Company officers are defined as Captain and Lieutenant. Any men who would normally carry a rifle will also be counted "in the ranks and on the field" if he is a working volunteer for that company hosting the event. This should be noted on the form one (1).

The morning report and weekend roster will be used to determine the amount of rifles.* If the company does not meet the 16 rifle requirement then that company is put on probation for a year. If the 16 rifle requirement is not met the second year then at the Colonel will assign that company to another company. The company can continue working on their numbers and if they meet the 16 rifle requirement during a future reenacting year from July the 1st to June 30th they can petition the Battalion membership to have their company letter back. The Colonel has the authority to combine companies for Parade, drill, and the battle as he sees needed for uniformity.

*The matter will be discussed with the company commander if 16+ rifles are being reported on the morning report and less is attending Parade and drill.

These proposals will be voted on at a Battalion meeting at River's Bridge.

Your obedient servant,

**Claude Sinclair, Sgt. Major
Palmetto Battalion**

Blue –Skins : A nickname applied to Presbyterians, from their alleged grave deportment.

Carry a Horse to Water: instead of lead or ride him to water. Southern expression.

To Cascade: to vomit

Fagged out: Fatigued; warned out . 'I can't walk on Joe. I'm fagged out. '

Marooning: A Southern expression. It means to go on a party and have a picnic. Such is called a marooning party. A marooning party lasts several days, while a picnic is just for a day.

From, Dictionary of Americanisms by John Russell Bartlett, 1848.

Into The Breach

Lt. Mark Trimmier
Battalion Adjutant

It is hard for me to believe how fast this year has gone by. I can honestly say it hasn't been without its bumps but all in all I feel like the battalion has made progress. Attendance rosters and the majority of dues have been on time, the physical year has been set to coincide with the event year and event attendance can now be checked on the web site.

Elections went very well. Keith Powell was elected Colonel for another year. Claude Sinclair was elected Lt. Colonel in addition of winning honors as "Soldier of the Year" again! Congratulations Claude! Ernie Black was chosen as the Battalion's Sgt. Major and Brian Sharp was again elected as our Color Sgt. The two By-Law Amendments pertaining to "stand alone company" status was deferred from voting for further study and discussion. The third proposed change involving event attendance rosters did pass. This amendment reads: "Event Attendance rosters must be received by the Battalion Adjutant no more than thirty (30) days after the conclusion of any event on the battalion schedule. Rosters received by the Adjutant after that time period may not count towards recognition for Battalion privileges such as voting rights. All Attendance Rosters must be received by the adjutant no less than thirty (30) days prior to scheduled Battalion Elections: events that occur at and/or after that thirty (30) day window will be considered for the following years attendance requirement. The Battalion Adjutant has sole authority to extend (only) the requirement minimum if circumstances dictate."

This amendment is designed to make the adjutant's job a little easier and more time effective for attendance posting on the battalion roster. I must say as a whole rosters have been turned in to me on time. I especially thank those of you who give them to me on Sunday. In a few housekeeping matters, I hope everyone is aware this year's Battalion Attendance roster is now posted on the site. The events for 2006-2007 will be added after Secessionville for the calendar year. I encourage everyone to check your attendance regularly. If it is not correct on the site, please let your UNIT REP know to contact me. Remember, to officially be counted at an event, you must be present at role call. Any late arrivals after role call is taken should see their First Sgt. for being marked present, any weapon inspection that may be required and that individuals qualification to take the field for battle. **Role call is important!**

Another change this year is access to the Vindicator. You no longer need a password to view the Vindicator on line. If you wish to receive the Vindicator by mail you need to contact the editor, Bruce Blackmon. Folks again I thank you for your help and support as Adjutant over the last year. I look forward to seeing you all in good health on the field in the coming months.

Stay safe and God Bless. Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Mark Trimmier
Adjutant
Palmetto Battalion

COFFEE SAVED THE DAY

It's said that there was never a brighter man than Lt. Colonel Lester of Company G (13th South Carolina). Once when the fellows of Company G were at a meal, an enemy shell was thrown into their midst. The fuse was still burning so Col. Lester had the mind to take his cup of coffee and pour it on the fuse and save the company. Many men were saved that day due to his quick thinking and that good cup of coffee.

TELL THE BOYS THE WAR IS ENDED

While in the first ward of the Quintard Hospital, Rome, Georgia, a young soldier from the Eighth Arkansas Regiment, who had been wounded at Murfreesboro', called me to his bedside. As I approached I saw that he was dying, and when I bent over him he was just able to whisper, "Tell the boys the war is ended."

"Tell the boys the war is ended,"
These were all the words he said;
"Tell the boys the war is ended,"
In an instant more was dead.

Strangely bright, serene, and cheerful
Was the smile upon his face,
While the pain, of late so fearful,
Had not left the slightest trace.

"Tell the boys the war is ended,"
And with heavenly visions bright
Thoughts of comrades loved were blended,
As his spirit took its flight.

"Tell the boys the war is ended,"
"Grant, O God, it may be so,"
Was the prayer which then ascended,
In a whisper deep, though low.

"Tell the boys the war is ended,"
And his warfare then was o'er,
As, by angel bands attended,
He departed from earth's shore.
Bursting shells and cannons roaring
Could not rouse him by their din;
He to better worlds was soaring,
Far from war, and pain, and sin.

Emily J. Moore
War Poetry of the South
Ed. William G. Simms

Everyman Goes To Fighting On His Own Hook

John
Christiansen

Ed. Note: *The scholarly article was written a few years ago as a graduate school project by John Christiansen of the Palmetto Living History Association. The original title is "EVERY MAN GOES TO FIGHTING ON HIS OWN HOOK": Open Order Fighting in the Civil War As Experienced by South Carolinians of the Confederacy. With John's permission I have taken the liberty to edit his work to fit the Vindicator and interests our readers. No part of this article may be reprinted without written permission from the author. This is a continuation from last months article. This is the last installment*



Ramage does not detail the nature of the fighting, but describes the wounds received by members of his company. All suffered head, torso, and arm wounds, which would be the parts of the body exposed by men crouching behind fences, rocks, or bushes.

Gregg's South Carolina Brigade was heavily engaged at Second Manassas in August of 1862. This unit was the target of wave after wave of Federal attacks. The men had the protection of a railroad embankment, and "standing, kneeling, lying, we fought." Attacking Union troops were also observed to conceal themselves as much as possible. "The enemy would advance, deliver their fire, and then conceal themselves until they could load again." A third account states: "From the dense growth which shielded the enemy from our view, they poured in upon us a deadly fire. Our men had seldom better direction for their aim than the bushes from which the fire came."

Skirmishing and small engagements were common, but there had been few large scale pitched battles by spring and early summer of 1862. In Virginia, there had not been a significant engagement since First Manassas in July 1861. When Northern forces attempted to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond by driving up the Peninsula between the James and York Rivers, the veterans of First Manassas had been joined by many new recruits with little battle experience.

Even at this early stage of the war, troops were taking advantage of available cover and going to ground during combat. While under artillery fire in the Peninsula on June 26, 1862, J.R. Boyles noted "we had to lay low and hug the ground." At the battle of Seven Pines, the Fourth South Carolina was advancing through a thicket towards a strong enemy position: "Our numbers being so small we made a flank movement to our left, making for a thick piece of woods that was but a short distance away, as we thought we would be sheltered from the storm of ball and shell which played havoc in our ranks." Unfortunately for the men of the Fourth, the woods concealed another body of Federal troops. They regiment suffered heavy losses while caught in the open under a crossfire, but "...we did what shooting we could while laying on the ground amongst our dead and wounded comrades."

The experience of James Coker was a veritable litany of examples of men going to ground. At the battle of Williamsburg, Coker observed a North Carolina regiment advancing. "Coming to the rail fence...they fell to the ground and

availed themselves of the slight cover to return the enemy's fire." At Seven Pines, a fellow soldier was "loading and firing where the regiment was lying down in line of battle...when he rolled on his back to 'tear' and 'ram cartridge,' a cruel bullet crashed into his forehead." Later at Gaines' Mill, "after taking (the enemy's) bullets for a while, General Anderson, who had been lying down with us on the crest...ordered a charge." A mix of defiant courage and practicality occurred at Frasier's Farm, where "exposed to the terrible and murderous fire of the enemy, our boys would stand up, take deliberate aim, and fire, exposing themselves unnecessarily...At the command to charge, our companies rose up..." During this charge, Coker's comrades captured a battery. There the men "took refuge behind the artillery and dead horses, and poured a well directed fire into the line of infantry..."

The practice of fighting skirmish style was also present at this time during the fighting around Charleston. In a small engagement on James Island "the Southerners lay down on the ground, hiding behind palmettos and it was in this manner that they fought."

Thus far, the practice of going to ground has been demonstrated as early as the spring of 1862. Was this behavior manifested even earlier? Are examples to be found in the battle of First Manassas, the first major engagement of the war? Indeed they are. Richard Lewis of the Fourth South Carolina noted that "our company was lying behind the plank and rail fence in front of the Henry House at one time in the fight."

The Hampton Legion infantry was also engaged near the Henry House. They had been driven back from an earlier position, rallied under the cover of a wood, and then returned to the fighting at the house. "Our men however did splendidly, taking advantage of the cover they fired with deadly effect. Here Colonel Hampton wished to make a charge but luckily the men were too much scattered, and were doing excellent work in another way."

Another member of the Hampton Legion described a skirmish at the Henry House on July 21, but this is probably the actual battle of First Manassas on July 19. The defeated Union army fled to Washington after the battle, leaving the area firmly in Confederate control for several weeks. It is unlikely that another skirmish could have happened shortly after the battle. The account reads:

Forming a line of battle, single file we marched to the

Hook

fence, lay down, and began firing. The “Yanks” fired according to regulations, by platoons. We could hear their orders distinctly – “Ready, Aim, Fire!” – in time to lie as closely to the ground as possible. Following that volley of bullets, most of which struck the fence, we would arise and shoot at will, each of us usually picking a man.

This evidence referring to skirmish style fighting and the practice of going to ground is even more compelling when one considers the sources. The Hampton Legion was organized and partially equipped by Wade Hampton, a wealthy South Carolina plantation owner known as the wealthiest man in America. Many men from the upper crust of South Carolina society - including members of elite, exclusive antebellum militia companies - vied for the honor of serving with this wealthy and cultured man. If any unit subscribed to the Victorian principles of shunning protection and fighting “man-fashion,” it would have been this one.

The fact that this unit, whose members were conscious of being part of a long and distinguished South Carolina military tradition, went to ground without a second thought speaks volumes about the style of fighting that was actually carried out in the Civil War.

On a related note, soldiers during the Civil War have been said to have especially shunned the use of fieldworks at the beginning of the conflict. The men would entrench only under direct orders, and considered such physical labor only fit for slaves. But consider this description from Calloway Henderson of the Seventh South Carolina of a scene a few days prior to the battle at First Manassas:

We formed line of battle and were informed by General Beauregard that that was the end of falling back and to get ready to fight. The line was on the south side of the creek, close up to the water. We became very industrious at this time. Every man wanted to dig a trench or ditch...

An extensive study of the use of fieldworks is not the focus of this work, but the evidence does highlight a pattern of behavior that is directly related to the subject of going to ground.

Before concluding this paper, the limitations of the sources must be acknowledged. Despite the many sources available of personal experiences and reminiscences of the Civil War, it is difficult to pinpoint with total accuracy a pattern of behavior. Many soldiers were vague in their descriptions of actions they were in, often saying little more than the equivalent of “I was there.” In

letters home to friends and family, the men frequently made no mention at all of their combat experiences. Some were simply homesick, wishing only to hear of events back home. Others used their correspondence as a means of escape from their surroundings.

No attempt has been made in this study to assemble any statistics of the percentage of men who detailed their battle experiences versus those who left a vague description or none at all. Nor has there been an effort to amass a set of numerical data on the number of men who mentioned the practice of going to ground versus those who did not. The variety of types of sources consulted – diaries, letters, journals, post-war recollections – poses difficulties in constructing an accurate sample. And no single type of source was numerous enough to provide statistically significant data. A statistical analysis incorporating all of these variables may provide a quantitative basis to judge how common the practice of going to ground was.

Furthermore, it must be acknowledged that a degree of interpretation is involved in constructing exactly what a soldier meant by a turn of phrase. For example, when men wrote that their companies “rose up” and charged, this could either mean that they were fighting prone before their attack or that they merely sprang forward. “Rising up” could refer as much to a mental state as to a physical one. This study has sought to present the experiences of the men involved in their own words. The reader may judge whether the wording of the accounts justify the interpretation that has been drawn.

Simply put, that conclusion is that soldiers during the Civil War commonly fought in loose lines of battle which more closely resembled skirmish lines. They took advantage of any available cover to shield themselves from the bullets and shells of the enemy, going prone if no other cover was available.

This, too, was a characteristic of skirmish lines. Such action was partially due to the confusion inherent in battle, which worked to disrupt ordered formations. It was not only an individual response to the battle environment; it was often initiated by the orders of superior officers. Furthermore, soldiers had more experience in fighting in skirmish formation in small unit actions, an experience which influenced their conduct in larger engagements. Finally, the practice of going to ground was not the result of gradually accumulated experience with the realities of war. It was present from the very beginning of the war.

The experiences of South Carolinians in the Confederate armies have been used to make a case for a broader pattern of behavior common to all participants in the war. Future scholarship on the experiences of soldiers from individual states on both sides could confirm the veracity of this argument.

“We took refuge behind ...
the dead horses and
poured a well directed
fire into the line of
infantry.”

Battle of Secessionville

The Confederate Heritage Trust Proudly presents the 17th annual reenactment of the Battle of Secessionville, November 10th through 12th at Boone Hall Plantation in Charleston.

Re-enactors and living historians are needed for the first ever school day at this event which is to be held on Friday the 10th.

Many other events are being planned . These include but are not limited to:

A Ladies Home Guard Demonstration

A woman's refugee camp

Jim Godburn from Richmond, Va., will give interpretive talks on the role of journalists in shaping news from the battlefield.

Drew McDonald and James Gray will give an interpretation of 19th century medical practices

Events for the children

Calvary, infantry and artillery demonstrations every morning

Sutlers

Daily Battles

Saturday, November 11th is Veteran's Day. There will be a service to honor all American Veterans. Remember that no vehicles will be permitted in camp from 8 a.m. Saturday morning until 30 minutes after Sunday's battle.

Registration is required for the battle, but there is no fee for Battalion members. **Please register through your unit representative.** Registrations should be sent to Wayne Dukes, 118 Hope Drive, Summerville, SC 29485.

As before, 100% of the profits from the Battle of Secessionville will be donated to the Hunley Commission for the continuing restoration for the Confederate submarine, H.L. Hunley.

For more information about the Battle of Secessionville, please email battleofsecessionville@yahoo.com



JACKSON OR A RABBIT?

Stopping to rest in the woods, we stacked arms just on the side of the road and lay down.

While lying here, we heard a faint yell in the distance, back on the road. The men began to say: "Jackson or a rabbit; Jackson or a rabbit."

The yell continuing and growing louder and nearer, everybody says, "It's Jackson! It's Jackson!"

Directly came the sound of horses feet galloping. Then as all men rose, waving hats in the air and cheering the rider, came Jackson at a furious gallop, looking neither to the right nor to the left, not even paying the least heed to a stand of arms belonging to my company that stood in the road, but riding over them, scattering them right and left. After him, some fifty yards behind came his aides, trying to keep him in sight. I have often thought that of all relics of the war, I would rather have the gun that his horse's hoof struck just then than any other.

"Jackson or a rabbit!" That was the cry always made when a distant yell was heard, for whether one or the other, no pair of eyes would ever rest on him, but the mouth under them opened and gave vent to a prolonged yell. They were both cheered the same, only Jackson with "hat's off."

The other time I speak of was at Harpers Ferry. We were all occupied at one thing or another, just after the surrender, the prisoners were moving freely amongst us, though well guarded, when the cry was heard and the clattering of hoofs.

"What's the matter?" asked the prisoners.

"Jackson's coming!" was the answer.

All feet rushed to the road, and such a cheer a was set up by men in grey and men in blue has seldom been heard. For the prisoners all cheered him just as lustily and heartily as we did ourselves. And we felt very kindly toward them for it.

Berry Benson

1st SCV, Berry Benson's Civil War Book, 1962

Field Orders

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sadder part of life when we lose one very young and lose one to cancer. Please remember to support our folks in their time of loss.

As with anything it is time for me to end. So let's all continue our new year's resolution to determine the battalion's chosen path and to then see that it happens. We have a fine group of people and we need to act in the group's best interest. We are involved in a great hobby and we only have better things ahead of us. It is an honor being your commander and wish what is best for all of us. God bless our great Country and the great State that we live in.

Your obedient servant,

Keith Powell

Colonel, Commanding Palmetto Battalion

The Brush Arbor

Mike Short
Chaplain

It is always interesting to read some of the prevailing thoughts of the day as presented in some of the Gospel Tracts which were handed out to the men in the ranks. I ran across this one which addresses one of the timeless issues facing military life.

Liquor and Lincoln

By A Physician

From the Lincoln usurpation, every lover of Constitutional liberty desires to be free. And every honest patriot, no matter how ardently attached to the Old Union he may have been, now freely offers his life and property, if need be, to secure that freedom. But ardent wishes and patriotic resolves--loud professions of attachment to our Southern Republic, and boastful acclamations of what we can, and mean to do will never secure our independence. God reigns and rules supremely, over nations and individuals alike; and He will permanently prosper no cause, the advocates of which are guilty of a constant disregard of his laws or authority.

This He has proclaimed in his Holy Book, and ignore it as we may, it is inexorably true and certain. At one period of our struggle, the God of heaven beheld a nation on its knees, and in answer to their earnest prayers, His unseen hand was outstretched to direct and support our struggling troops on the bloody plains of Manassas, and lead them to victory. But since that memorable day, our people have become vainglorious and boastful--our soldiers profane and licentious; and now God has deserted us, and the tide of fortune has changed, and we are in danger of being overrun. Officers and privates--church members and worldlings, gather around the festive board, and spend the hours and days, in drinking, gambling, and too often, alas! In obscene and profane jocularly. The man who raises his stalwart arm to break the shackles which an earthly Despot would impose on this sunny South, now bows at the shrine of Bacchus, and sells himself to a Despot, who has enslaved both soul and body. While he refuses to submit to the authority of *one*, who can do no *more*, that destroy body and property--he is paying his devotions to another, who will do no *less* than destroy his body and property *here*, and his immortal soul in *hell!* And all this is done, under the specious plea, that whiskey, "*prevents disease, increases the energies, protects against cold and heats, AND IS ADVANTAGEOUS TO AN ARMY ABOUT TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE!*"

In a brief article, it is impossible to give the evidence, which is in the possession of every respectably intelligent physician, to establish the folly and falsehood of these declarations. Suffice it to say, that carefully collected and arranged statistics, prepared by the sanitary officers of the British army through a space of thirty years, establish the following facts:

1. That the Total Abstinence regiments, can endure more labor, more cold, more heat, more exposure, and more privations than those who have their regular grogrations.

2. That they are less liable to fevers, fluxes, pleurisy, colds, chills, rheumatism, jaundice and cholera than other regiments.

3. That when attacked by any of these diseases their recovery is much more certain and speedy.

4. That they are much more readily aroused from the effects of concussions and severe wounds, and are far less liable to lockjaw or mortification after wounds.

5. That only about six in the temperance regiments die, from all causes, to ten of the other regiments.

These facts are collected from various fields of observation--from Africa, Canada, Greenland, India, the East Indies, West Indies, and the Crimea. And facts as these are worth all the theories and conjectures, which may be spun out in a thousand years, by the unreliable, and unconsciously *suborned* witnesses of King Alcohol. For it is the easiest matter in the world for any man to convince himself, that whatever he wishes to do is really the best thing he can do.

How sad it is to reflect, that fathers and mothers have sent their sons into the army of independence, to be watched over and protected by faithful and competent officers, and those officers should become the instruments of initiating these ingenuous youths into the vices of drinking and gambling? And yet it is no less true than sad.

But how is it that "a little whiskey is beneficial to an army about to engage in battle?" Medical writers tell us; that it increases thirst, unduly excites the mind and body for a time, to be speedily followed by a corresponding depression. It can not then be of any benefit physically. The soldier has to obey the orders of his officers, and his obedience is rather mechanical than intellectual. So it must be alone morally beneficial! But have the defenders of the South so far degenerated already, as to require the aid of *whiskey* to arouse them to a sense of their obligations to country, friends and home? Have they no higher incentive to action than low, brute passion, which is alone excited by whiskey? Heed they not the appeals of oppressed sons and daughters from every Southern State, who have been driven from their homes by the cruel invader? Do they feel no patriotic impulse animating their souls, and nerving their arms to strike for the honor and

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The War Time Story of Daniel Miles Tedder

Ed. Note: In late 2003, I was asked to participate in a memorial service for a South Carolina soldier named, Daniel Miles Tedder, who was buried in a cemetery near where I live, just across the S.C. line, in Laurinburg, NC. Tedder's granddaughter presented me with a copy of Tedder's remembrances of the war, which he wrote in 1865. Tedder served in the 21st SCV but was released for being underage. He re-enlisted in Butler's 1st SC, which also doubled as an heavy artillery unit, known as the 3rd SC. Artillery. This article is reprinted with permission of Tedder's ancestors. This is a continuation of last months article.

Thus on the night of the 7th of Sept., the enemy brought his monitors down some distance below Wagner, partly on Reconnaissance, and in doing so, he grounded one of them, which was the Weehawken, 1500 yards from Fort Moultrie, and on the following morning of the 8th, she was discovered about daylight.

Her comrades, eight in number, came in to her relief, assisted by New Ironsides. Thus a regular bombardment was kept up for 8 hours, which they were seriously damaged, the Ironsides especially. It was reported that she sank the following night, but appeared to be very well satisfied with their bold position.

Thus he succeeded in blowing up an ammunition chest in ft. Moultrie containing 300 lbs of powder of 35 time fuse shells, which caused the death of 24 men. But this only made the heroes of the Fort more determined on them, an never to give it up until they were made to yield, and crawl out of the rach of our guns, which the latter did. And feeling proud of having that opportunity, after gaining the whole of Morris Isle, he was able to shell the city at ease with his long range guns, which they did not delay in doing. This he continued in doing both day and night all the year and occasionally brining in monitors in at long range.

In the year of 64, I come to the conclusion to join the Army again. And on the 19th of January '64, I left home bound for Charleston, SC, which place I arrived on the 20th and joined Co. 'C' of that olde Regiment which was the 1st of S.C. Infantry, which had so faithfully stood up before the Guns of the largest and heaviest caliber ever recorded in the History of War. This Regiment was still serving as heavy artillery, an had been for 12 months, it being thoroughly disciplined in both drills.

The company I joined was garrisoning Ft. Moultrie, here I was soon put into action with the monitors. An very frequently with Morris Isle. This continued all the year of '64, but I shall not forget to mention our expedition to James Isle on the night of the 1st of July. The enemy landed on a part of the Isle near Secessionville and had succeeded in capturing two of our guns. But after the arrival of five companies of my Regiment of which my company was one, and five companies of the 1st regiment and the 47th and 32nd Ga. Regts. They made a hasty re-embarkation and landed on Johns isle, a distance of 7 miles. These Ga. Regiments above mentioned was immediately ordered to the Isle which placed their arrival on the night of the 7th of July.

On the following morning attacked the enemy at sunrise and after a severe engagement of one hour, the enemy was repulsed and driven to their gunboats with a loss of 31 killed and 90 wounded, our loss being 28 wounded and 13 killed.

We remained near Leagresville until the night of the

The worst marches were over the long sandhills.....

11th of July. We awoke, then ordered back to Sullivan's Isle which place we arrived on the same night after an expedition of 11 days of the warmest weather I most ever saw. My company lost three wounded, one mortally. The heat of the weather and the exhausted a gradual stillness in the company. I was taken immediately after my arrival at Ft. Moultrie with typhoid fever. I was sent to Mount Pleasant hospital, which place I staid 8 weeks, and a grate part of the time could not tell day from night, but at the expiration of 8 weeks as I above said, I obtained a 60 days furlough, and at the expiration of it I returned to my command. I did not have many more engagements with the enemy there. We spent a very lively Christmas there.

Evacuated the place on the night of the 17th of July 1864. My company was the last to leave the isle. We had a very disagreeable time in getting off the Isle. The enemy shelled the bridge that we had to cross, with about 20 guns, but we succeeded in getting over safe. We then taken the steamer 'Coffers' for Strawberry Ferry on the Cooper River, a distance of 20 miles form Mt. Pleasant. We were landed at the ferry on the morning of the 18th and marched to St. Stephens' Depot on the M.E. R.R. We then reembarked on board the train up to Kingstree. We remained there two days, before we re-embarked for Cheraw, S.C. which place we arrived and stayed two days only before the Yanks drive us out.

We then struck our march for Virginia, but I shall not forget to say that we had some of the worst marches over the long sand hills of N.C. that I ever witnesses. But before we reached Virginia, I shall tell you we had a rough time, worse than any marching at a little village called Averbosoro between Fayetteville and Raleigh. On the 15th of March we were attacked by Sherman's advanced guard. General Hardee immediately halted the whole command, and began to build breastworks. As his wagon train could not be got over the river in front of him under two days.

We built our works on the evening of the 15th, then give him a small skirmish, and withdrew to our works. Next morning before day my brigade was ordered to the front line of works, which place we went all anxious for fight. My regiment was then ordered to the skirmish line. We were quick there attacked by both cavalry and infantry. We were compelled to go back to our breastworks after giving the cavalry two charges which we drove them at each charge. At our arrival at the breastworks we found our whole Brigade in line.

This article will be continued in the December 2006 Vindicator.

The Brush Arbor

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liberty of mothers, wives, sisters and daughters, and all that the heart holds dear, unless they are under the influence of whiskey? Is it possible that State pride--love of home and country, a high sense of honor and a patriotic devotion to principle, are not enough to nerve every arm and fir every heart, without the aid of whiskey? Oh! Shame upon my countrymen if this be so!

Better had we lowed the neck to Lincoln's yoke, than made ourselves the willing slaves of groveling passions, and depraved appetites. All the honors and glories of a hundred battles fought and won, cannot efface from the fair escutcheon of the South, this foul and degrading moral pollution. Nor, so long as it lasts, can the prayers of all the saints, and the blood and fat of all the goats and bullocks from a thousand hill, propitiate the favor of heaven, or secure in our behalf the interposition of a benignant Providence.

This evil must be abated--this nefarious habit must be broken, or our liberties will be lost, and our country ruined. No wonder the bones of thousands of our brave defenders have been left to bleach on their native hills, when drunken ignoramuses, under the appellation of "Surgeon," have delt them more numerous and deadly blows than the missiles of the enemy. No wonder that disasters have befallen our arms, when in defiance of the mandates of heaven and the melting appeals of suffering humanity, reeling inebriates, are appointed to lead our brave cohorts to the charge. No wonder that God has forsaken us when we raise the puny arm of rebellion against his authority, and proclaim, that we will not have this man, Christ Jesus, to reign over us. Nor should any one wonder to see our fields desolated during the present year by blighting droughts, when we are consuming the bountiful supplies of Providence, in past years, in "distilled damnation," to destroy the souls and bodies of our people!

Every thing worthy of a manly consideration in our land demands of our people, our army and our Government to abate this evil. The mothers and maidens from very hill and vale in the South, demand it. The thousands of treasure squandered by drinking, drunken, stupid, thoughtless, callous legislators demand it. The alarming increase of bloody crime in the capital of the Confederacy demands it. The wining fortunes of bleeding Liberty, as she bends with weeping eyes over her struggling sons, demand it.

The present welfare and future hopes of the entire South, in earnest and eloquent tones, importunately and imperiously demand it. The clouds of ghosts wrested daily from the bodies of our brave defenders by this monster evil, pointing to their bleaching bones as they lie scattered by every by-path of the army, demand it. Our duty to ourselves, our country and our God demands it. "For if a nation forsakes the statutes and commandments of God," he has declared, "he will cast them out of his sight and make them a proverb and a by-word among all nations. And to him who asks, why bath the Lord done this unto this land, it shall be answered because they forsook the Lord God, therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them." "But if you will call upon my name," saith Jehovah, "humble yourselves, pray and seek my face and turn from your wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, forgive your sins, and heal your land." WHAT GOD SPEAKETH, LET A STRUGGLING NATION HEED!

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Oh, how it thrilled the heart of a soldier, when he had been long away from the army, to catch sight again of his red battle flag, upheld on its white staff of pine, its tatters snapping to the wind! A red rag, (there be those who will say)- a red rag tied to a stick, and that is all! And yet-- that red rag, crossed with blue, with white stars sprinkled the cross within, tied to a slim, barked pine sapling, with leather thongs cut from a soldier's shoe, this rough red rag my soul loved with a lover's love.

Berry Benson

1st S.C. Volunteers

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
PALMETTO BATTALION

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Schedule of Events

- Nov. 11-12 Secessionville, Charleston, SC (Battalion Affiliated event)
- Jan. 13-14 School of the NCO, Battle of Columbia site.